

RUSHVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

The Rushville City Council met in the meeting room of the City Hall Building. Upon convening, Mayor, Jeff Ervin called the meeting to order and directed City Clerk, Stacey Briney to call the roll. Upon ROLL CALL, the following answered present: Council Members: Susan Acker, Richard Davis, Terry Dodds, Mike Farniok, Bob Fishel, Bryan Matteson, Mike Ryan, & Paul Trimble. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Others present included: City Clerk, Stacey Briney; City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler; Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston; Chief of Police, Rick Wright; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; Kala Peacock, representing the Chamber of Commerce; and Jason, Erin, & Jude Eveland.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer was led by Mayor, Jeff Ervin.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ervin.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jude Eveland introduced himself and informed the council that he is working on his Eagle Scout project. Eveland stated he would like to name the streets in the cemetery. Eveland noted depending on how much money he receives from fundraisers will depend on how many streets he will do but he will like to name all of them. **Consensus of the council was to allow Eveland to move forward with this project.**

Eveland asked the council how he would name the streets. Jason Eveland stated that they thought if someone wanted to purchase the entire sign, that they could name that street after them. Mayor Ervin informed Eveland to get with Cemetery Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson and Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent to talk about this. Mayor Ervin thanked Eveland for doing this type of project.

Jason, Erin, & Jude Eveland left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Kala Peacock, representing the Chamber of Commerce reported they would like to add Tuesday evenings to the Farmers Market. Peacock noted they will still do Friday mornings, but some have asked for an evening market due to work schedules. Mayor Ervin said he liked the idea. Peacock stated that if there is something already scheduled up there, the chamber will work with whomever it is. Peacock reported that Farmers Market will start May 1st and either until the end of October or whenever the produce runs out. **Consensus of the council was to allow for Farmers Market on Tuesday evenings.**

Kala Peacock left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

- a) Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 18, 2025
- b) Approve the Minutes of the TIF Committee Meeting held February 12, 2025;
Combined TIF & Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Meeting held February 12, 2025;
& Grievance & Personnel Committee Meeting held February 26, 2025
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 03/03/25" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve Reserving Central Park & Closing the North, South, & East Sides of the Square on Sunday, June 15, 2025, for the Father's Day Car Show
- e) Approve Reserving Central Park on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., for the Bicentennial Celebration & Homecoming Coronation
- f) Approve Reserving Central Park on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for a Special Church Service
- g) Approve One (1) Additional Music & Amusement Device for Vic's Corner
- h) Approve Line Item Transfers
- i) Approve Loan Disbursements
- j) Approve Work Change Order #4 in the Amount of \$19,170.90

- k) Pass & Adopt Ordinance No. 1388, Ordinance Regarding Storage and Cargo Containers

Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Acker, Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

6. ITEMS TO BE REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – IF APPLICABLE

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda

7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 147 E. LAFAYETTE STREET

Davis MOVED TO APPROVE SELLING THE SURPLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 147 E. LAFAYETTE STREET TO REX POWELL IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000). Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER ADDING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TAVERN LICENSE

Mayor Ervin reported this came up when Vic’s Corner added a bar in their building. Mayor Ervin stated that in his opinion it is now considered a tavern. Mayor Ervin said he does not have a problem with this, but they need to have the correct license. Council Member, Mike Ryan asked if there was a noise ordinance on this, and Mayor Ervin said no.

Ryan MOVED TO APPROVE ADDING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TAVERN LICENSE. Davis SECONDED.

Council Member, Bob Fishel asked if there was any movement on the license that Debbie Hester got for the old 55 building, and Mayor Ervin stated that is a supper club license. Mayor Ervin said Hester, himself, and City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler are working on this.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Davis; 1 NAYS – Dodds; 0 ABSENT.

9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING A RED GRANT FOR SOUTH SIDE FAMILY CAFÉ

Economic Development Committee Chair, Susan Acker reported the committee met earlier to review an application from Leslie Featherlin. Acker stated that she spoke with Featherlin and told her there needs to be some additions and changes and then they will review it again. **No action was taken at this time.**

10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER 1ST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1390, ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS FOR CITY DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS, & EMPLOYEES

Grievance & Personnel Committee Chairman, Paul Trimble reported the committee met the review the wages. Trimble stated the raises in this ordinance is a three percent (3%) for all department heads except for the Superintendent of Operations due to the length of time in this position. Mayor Ervin said this raise will take effect May 1st. Fishel asked if the salary caps have been raised on some of these positions and Mayor Ervin noted anything in red has been changed.

Trimble MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1390. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS FOR CITY DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS & EMPLOYEES TO THE SECOND (2ND) READING. Dodds SECONDED.

Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times* asked if the extra police hires were a raise since they were listed in red as well, and Mayor Ervin said that was correct. Mayor Ervin noted the city is trying to be more competitive with the surrounding towns.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

11. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported he met with Mark of Leander Construction and they are going to be contacted River City Demolition to start on the old hilltop tank. Matteson said that will start, along, with Logan Street tanks at the end of March or first of April. Matteson stated the new tank is up at hilltop.

Matteson reminded the council members that the Night of Worship will be on the square March 11th.

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds reported bicycle rodeo is going fine. Dodds stated he has six (6) bicycles in and the fliers will be going out to the schools. Dodds reminded the council that the rodeo will be held April 5th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Dodds also reported that he went out to Scripps Park with Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston to look at a tree that is located at the corner of the ball diamond. Dodds stated this tree has heaved the sidewalk and every place there is a fork, the tree is split.

Council Member, Bob Fishel asked if the camera on the square ever got straightened out, and Chief of Police, Rick Wright said no. Mayor Ervin stated he is going to call the guy tomorrow to see what is going on because he was told it was supposedly an internet connection.

City Clerk, Stacey Briney reported she got the permits from IDOT for the North Congress Street sidewalk so we are now just waiting on the bid opening.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler reported she was approached by the owner of the property where the ambulance wrecked regarding damage to the sidewalk. Mayor Ervin directed Ralston to look into that.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reminded everyone that the appropriations are due March 17th, so everyone should get theirs to City Clerk, Stacey Briney by then.

Mayor Ervin also reminded the council of the meeting at Rushville State Bank Annex at 4:30 p.m. on March 12th, and the safety meeting with County Engineer, David Schneider and the stakeholders at the Fitness Center on March 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Ervin reported he had been contacted by Potomac Renewable Energy with interest in putting twenty (20) solar panels on the property behind the lagoons. Mayor Ervin noted this would probably bring in more money than what we get from farming.

12. ADJOURN

Fishel MOVED TO ADJOURN. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds, & Farniok; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:27 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

Date Minutes Approved