

## **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, Terry Dodds, Mike Farniok, Bob Fishel, Bryan Matteson, & Paul Trimble.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Members, Richard Davis and Mike Ryan were absent.

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*; Randy West, Mike Edwards, Doug & Jodie Brubaker, Cathy Rebman, Louis Maliongas, Dan, Niki, & Gretchen Wise, & Scott Stoll.

### **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**

Louis Maliongas addressed the council stating they the group was asked to go the Scripps Park board meeting to try to work something out regarding the kids playing golf for free. Maliongas said the group was told at the park board meeting to come up with some ideas where they both might be able to meet in the middle and take them to the committee meeting. Maliongas noted they gave the list of what they came up with to the committee and were told that the committee or the board was going to change what was already set. Maliongas stated the group then returned to the next park board meeting and their exact words to them was that all the damage that had been done was done by non-paying green fee people.

Mayor Ervin said he is hoping that the park board is open to some ideas. Council Member, Bryan Matteson asked what the age limit was now, and Maliongas noted the kids between thirteen and seventeen (13-17) are being affected the most. Maliongas noted they brought up that the high school teams needed to practice and the board members said they still needed to pay.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds asked if the schools pay when they play. Dan Wise reported that the schools do not pay for any nine (9) hole matches but they do for the invitationals. Wise noted the schools pay our school and then our school is billed from the course. Wise said he does not think anywhere charges the schools for the nine (9) hole matches.

Matteson asked if this all stems from damages that have been done on the golf course, and Maliongas stated it was. Matteson wondered if the parents of these kids could be held responsible for the damages. Scott Stoll said he feels like no one wants to manage the situation when checking on the kids. Stoll noted he offered to give a list of the kids that were on the team.

Mayor Ervin informed the group that they are still in discussion on this matter and maybe they can make some progress. Mike Edwards said the park board told them that the fees have already been passed. Stoll stressed that he thinks it is negligent of the park board to think that it is the kids that are doing all the damage. Council Member, Bob Fishel stated that the golf course needs the younger generation in order to keep it open. Maliongas attributes the younger generation of why the men's league is full.

Jodie Brubaker reported free golf has caused the high school boys' team to flourish. Brubaker stated eventually these kids will purchase a membership as they get older. Brubaker said the course is making money off the families of these kids who are not even golfers.

Matteson questioned if the group proposed any days or times, and Maliongas stated they proposed free golf for kids on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to noon and Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 5:00 p.m. with the kids having to be completely off the course at those ending times. Matteson asked about the weekends, and Maliongas noted the kids would have to pay then and any times after the proposed times. Cathy Rebman said the only thing the board agreed to was to allow the team members to play for free once the season started and that is too late.

Brubaker noted the Pro Shop employees need to be held accountable with these problems. Brubaker said she knew a parent that had a kid that did some damage but no one ever contacted her and she

had to hear it from a neighbor. Mike Farniok stated anyone renting a cart should have to give a photo ID. Maliongas said the Pro Shop does not require anything and that paper that is signed is not even legible so no one can be held accountable.

Brubaker said that living in a rural community, there is not a lot for the kids to do and they need to be outside doing stuff. Brubaker stressed that she would hate to see this end. Brubaker stated some of the kids probably do not know the proper etiquette and maybe a member could take a kid to a hole and explain to them what the proper things are. Stoll suggested giving everyone a list of rules and if they are not followed then that person will be asked to not return. Mayor Ervin asked the group to give them a couple weeks to see what the council can do.

*Mike Edwards, Doug & Jodie Brubaker, Cathy Rebman, Louis Maliongas, Dan, Niki & Gretchen Wise, and Scott Stoll left the meeting at 7:24 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 March 3, 2025
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Police Committee Meeting held March 6, 2025; & Public Buildings Committee Meeting held March 10, 2025
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 03/17/25" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve Closing the North/South Alley behind the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 5, 2025, for Drive-Thru Dinner
- e) Approve Reserving Central Park on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., for Pandora's Playhouse Auditions
- f) Approve Appointment of Angie Peacock to Scripps Park Board
- g) Approve \$500 Donation to Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation for Dr. Russell Dohner Golf Outing (*as per past practice*)
- h) Approve \$.50/hr. Raise for Darla Kirkham (*effective May 1, 2025*)
- i) Approve 3% Salary Increase for Animal Control Officer, David Edwards (*effective May 1, 2025*)
- j) Approve Hiring Jean Lane as Pro Shop Manager for 2025 Season at a Salary of \$8,500
- k) Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 1390, Ordinance Establishing Salaries, Wages, & Benefits for City Department Superintendents & Employees
- l) Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 1391, Ordinance Amending Class A Liquor License

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Trimble SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Acker, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Davis & Ryan.**

*Randy West left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.*

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda

## 7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER AWARDED BID FOR NORTH CONGRESS STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds reported everyone has a copy of the bid tabulation that was presented at the earlier committee meeting. Dodds stated the committee recommended awarding the bid to G M Sipes even though they were not the low bidder because they did the West Washington Street sidewalk that butts up to this project and they would like to see the same company do the work.

**Dodds MOVED TO APPROVE AWARDED THE BID TO G M SIPES CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$144,670) FOR THE NORTH CONGRESS STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT. Fishel SECONDED.**

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler asked if this was Stefanie Ballinger's from Benton & Associates recommendation as well, and Dodds said it was. Matteson noted Sipes' bid was closer to her estimate.

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Trimble, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Davis & Ryan.**

Dodds asked Mayor Ervin if he knew when Sipes’ could get to the sidewalk, and Mayor Ervin said he spoke with Pete Hamm of Sipes’ and they are back to work so it might be the first part of July if they get a break but if not, it will be towards the end of summer.

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

Economic Development Committee Chair, Susan Acker reported that she did not get any estimates from Leslie Featherlin until late Thursday night. **City Clerk, Stacey Briney was directed to place this item on the next council agenda.**

**9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER CREATING A SERGEANT POSITION WITHIN THE RUSHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Committee Chairman, Mayor Ervin reported the committee met to discuss creating a sergeant position so when Chief of Police, Rick Wright is gone someone would be in charge to give direction.

**Farniok MOVED TO APPROVE CREATING A SERGEANT POSITION WITHIN THE RUSHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT. Dodds SECONDED.**

Fishel stated there will be no pay raise and Officer Nathan Rauch is okay with that. Mayor Ervin noted the raise will come at the next contract. Chief Wright said there were a couple incidents that Officer Rauch needed to tell other officers what needed to be done and some just thought he was another officer. Chief Wright noted Officer Rauch is the K-9 officer, full training officer, and senior officer. Chief Wright stated he just wants Officer Rauch to have some authority. Farniok noted when another officer has questions, they have someone else to go to if they do not want to bother Chief Wright. Dodds questioned if there was a job description and Chief Wright said he is working on it.

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Trimble, Acker, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Davis & Ryan.**

**10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER WAGES FOR PART-TIME SUMMER HELP AT SCRIPPS PARK**

Mayor Ervin reported everyone had a memo in their packets describing what Scripps Park is wanting to do as far as wages. *Said memo is attached and a part of these minutes.* Mayor Ervin said he received a message from Scripps Park Board member, Mandy Bickerman apologizing for not being able to be at the meeting but she said the board thought the lifeguards should make One Dollar (\$1) per hour more than the others due to their certification and responsibilities. Mayor Ervin noted the board also wants to have two (2) different managers this year, one (1) that will supervise the employees and another one (1) to take care of the pump house, equipment, etc. Dodds said the board is talking about having the one (1) manager working about two (2) hours in the morning and two (2) hours in the afternoon. Dodds noted he calculated the hours on that and it comes up to about Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) per hour. Dodds feels like the council should stay at the Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and split it equally between the two (2) managers.

Mayor Ervin also reported that the park board reimburses the lifeguards One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125) for their certification at the end of the season. Dodds suggested paying the lifeguards Fifteen Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$15.25) and bump up the certification reimbursement to Two Hundred Dollars (\$200). Farniok noted that the number of people working at Fifteen Dollars (\$15) per hour is incredible and he does not feel paying Sixteen Dollars (\$16) per hour is a good thing. Matteson stated his daughter works in the emergency room and only makes minimum wage. Fishel said he would like to see set hours for the manager so the park is not paying someone for just a couple hours a week.

**Dodds MOVED TO APPROVE PAYING THE LIFEGUARDS FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (\$15.25) PER HOUR, FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$15) PER HOUR FOR THE SNACK SHACK EMPLOYEES, FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) FOR THE POOL MANAGER, FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) FOR THE MAINTENANCE MANAGER, AND REIMBURSING THE LIFEGUARDS TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200) FOR CERTIFICATION. Fishel SECONDED.**

Matteson asked why the raise in the certification and Mayor Ervin noted the cost went up on it.

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 4 YEAS – Fishel, Acker, Dodds, & Farniok; 2 NAYS; Matteson & Trimble; 2 ABSENT – Davis & Ryan.**

**11. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

Council Member, Susan Acker reported years ago some of the council members were reading the code book and she thought there is a section in there stating the city council supersedes the park board. Mayor Ervin said he is not sure if the council can override the park board's decision. Acker stated the golfing thing is going on and on and she does not think this is right because she would hate to see the free golf go away. Mayor Ervin agreed and noted that the kids from Astoria, Beardstown, or Brown County should not be able to play for free, just Rushville school kids. Acker stated the park is Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) in the hole and they just want to do all these things. Mayor Ervin reported the park will never make money but it is a great thing for the community and it needs to keep going.

Industrial Park Committee Chair, Acker reported Savannah Caputo is having a hard time finding the survey pins on the lot she purchased. Mayor Ervin said she will probably have to get a survey.

Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported the North Liberty Street storm sewer project is underway and through discovery when Hood's were tapping back into the cast iron water line it is deteriorating. Matteson stated it would cost Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$20,590) to fix the line, but since the existing storm sewer is closer to Liberty Street than everyone thought, the city will get back Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$11,900). Mayor Ervin noted the city would not have to fix the line but we will be digging it up at some time. **Consensus of the council was to go ahead and fix the line and Clerk Briney was directed to place this on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.** Matteson noted the city just has weakening infrastructure.

Matteson also reported the boring crew was working on South Monroe Street and hit a two-inch (2") water line.

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds **called for a committee meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss what everyone will be doing at the bicycle rodeo.**

Street Committee Chairman, Bob Fishel asked Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston if he had met with the engineer regarding the Motor Fuel Tax program, and Ralston noted she is still figuring the oil and chip.

Chief of Police, Rick Wright reported they have received the five (5) tasers that were purchased through a grant and he also received the reimbursement check today.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler reported since the city was not accepting the low bid for the North Congress Street sidewalk and did not have seven (7) voting members, we have to provide a statement as to why we are not accepting the low bid. **Clerk Briney was directed to place *Consider Awarding North Congress Street Sidewalk Project* on the next Consent Agenda.**

Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated she has been working on the Veith property at the corner of West Jefferson and North Franklin Streets and ordinance violations with Chief Wright.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin said everyone had a copy of the letter from Potomac Renewable Energy regarding putting solar panels on the twenty (20) acre field behind Bartlow Brothers. Mayor Ervin stated he has been contacted by another company but he has not talked to them yet so once he does, there will be a committee meeting to discuss this. A discussion followed with different questions that will be answered once the council decides what they would like to do. Dodds asked if the government is still asking municipalities to trap methane gasses and Attorney Wilson-Laegeler said she was not sure.

**13. ADJOURN**

**Dodds MOVED TO ADJOURN. Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Matteson, Trimble, Acker, Dodds, Farniok, & Fishel; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Davis & Ryan. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 8:01 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

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Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

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Date Minutes Approved