

December 1, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING  
REGARDING ADOPTING THE PROPOSED  
ORDINANCE NO. 1405, VACATING EASEMENT**  
Rushville City Hall Council Chambers  
6:45 p.m.

The following were in attendance: Mayor Jeff Ervin; Council Members – Susan Acker, Mike Carey, Terry Dodds, Mike Farniok, Bob Fishel, and Bryan Matteson; City Clerk’s Office, Mike Grate; City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; and Chuck Laegeler.

The public hearing was called to adopt the proposed Ordinance No. 1405, Vacating Easement. Notice was posted to meet state requirements.

**Dodds MOVED TO ADJOURN. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, & Matteson; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Ryan & Trimble. THE PUBLIC HEARING STOOD ADJOURNED AT 6:59 P.M.**

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December 1, 2025

**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 directed Mike Grate to call the roll. Upon ROLL CALL, the following answered present: Council Members: Susan Acker, Mike Carey, Terry Dodds, Mike Farniok, Bob Fishel, & Bryan Matteson.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Members, Mike Ryan & Paul Trimble were absent.

Others present included: Mike Grate, City Clerk’s office; Erin Wilson-Laegeler, City Attorney; Drew Ralston, Superintendent of Operations; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; & Chuck Laegeler.

**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**

There were no Public Comments at this time

*Council Member, Mike Ryan arrived at 7:01 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 November 17, 2025
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting held November 24, 2025; & the Water Committee Meeting held November 24, 2025
- c) Approve “Claims for Council Approval Dated 12/01/25” & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve “Claims for Schuy-Rush Approval Dated 11/24/25” (*due to lack of quorum*)
- e) Approve Reserving the Gazebo on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, & Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, for the Chamber of Commerce Punch Card Drawing along with Entertainment
- f) Approve Moving Police Officer, Ted Eifert to the 30-hr Position
- g) Approve \$100 Donation for the Christmas Advertisements

- h) Pass & Adopt Ordinance No. 1404, Annual Tax Levy
- i) Approve Loan Reimbursements

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble.**

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER SUSPENDING THE RULES RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1405, VACATING EASEMENT**

**Farniok MOVED TO APPROVE SUSPENDING THE RULES RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1405, VACATING EASEMENT. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Acker, & Carey; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble.**

**8. PASS & ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1405, VACATING EASEMENT**

**Acker MOVED TO PASS & ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1405, VACATING EASEMENT. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Acker, Carey, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT - Trimble.**

**9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING RED GRANT FOR BOEHM’S GARDEN CENTER**

Economic Development Chair, Susan Acker reported that Boehm’s Garden Center applied for a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) RED Grant. Acker explained the RED Grant rules state that businesses can get two (2) RED Grants in a three (3) year period and Boehm’s received one in May 2025, so they will not be eligible for another grant until May 2028. Acker said the Economic Development Committee recommends awarding Boehm’s the Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) RED Grant.

**Acker MOVED TO APPROVE A RED GRANT TO BOEHM’S GARDEN CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000). Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Acker, Carey, Dodds, & Farniok; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble.**

**10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER SALE OF THE SOUTH PORTION OF LOT 10 IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Industrial Park Development Committee Chair, Acker reported that Casey Austin and Mark Marlow are interested in purchasing the south portion of Lot 10 for a coffee shop. City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler stated that she was just waiting for a purchase agreement from Charlie Burton, who is representing Austin and Marlow to close the sell of the property. Acker said Austin and Marlow have agreed to purchase the lot for Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500), and Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler noted this agreement has the same terms as the previous deed and that construction must start within eighteen (18) months of purchase or the lot will revert back to the city. Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler said Austin and Marlow were fine with those terms.

**Acker MOVED TO APPROVE THE SALE OF THE SOUTH PORTION OF LOT 10 TO CASEY AUSTIN AND MARK MARLOW IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500). Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Matteson, Ryan, Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, & Fishel; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT - Trimble.**

**11. DISCUSS & CONSIDER SOLUTIONS TO SCADA SYSTEM**

Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported that he had an original quote for replacing the coax cable on the water tower that seemed high at Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$13,429.53). Matteson said he asked Second Sight System to revisit that first quote and they came back with a second quote of Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Dollars and Ninety- Nine Cents (\$5,120.99). Matteson stated that Second Sight Systems recommends replacing the half-inch (1/2”) coax with seven-eighths inch (7/8”) coax in a single continuous run because the thicker

coax has a lower signal loss per foot and they would eliminate the unnecessary splices. Matteson noted this work should help with communication loss between our sights.

**Matteson MOVED TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM SECOND SIGHT SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS AND NINETY-NINE CENTS (5,120.99) TO REPLACE THE COAX FOR SCADA SYSTEM. Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Ryan, Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, & Matteson; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT - Trimble.**

## **12. DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESERVING PARKING SPACES FOR MORELAND & DEVITT**

Street Committee Chairman, Bob Fishel reported that Moreland & Devitt will be doing a curbside pickup in the west alley behind their store. Fishel stated for now, they would like to have one (1) space, the first space coming out of alley on the south side of West Washington Street. Fishel noted Moreland & Devitt will be checking the numbers in ninety (90) days to see if they need a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) space.

Mayor Ervin stressed that he is against giving away any spaces on the square. Mayor Ervin noted he knows this request is not on the square, but he thinks the city might receive requests for spaces on the square in the future.

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE RESERVING ONE (1) PARKING SPOT ON WEST WASHINGTON STREET FOR MORELAND & DEVITT FOR CURBSIDE PICK-UP. Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, & Ryan; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT - Trimble.**

## **13. DISCUSS & CONSIDER LEASE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL WITH ARENA RENEWABLES**

Mayor Ervin reported this proposal was a lease and not a purchase agreement for the twenty (20) acres south of the city’s lagoons. Mayor Ervin stated this would significantly increase the income off that property.

**Carey MOVED TO HAVE CITY ATTORNEY, ERIN WILSON-LAEGELER MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SOLAR FARM WITH ARENA RENEWABLES. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT - Trimble.**

## **14. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS’ REPORTS**

Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported that Logan Street ground is level, seeded, and a protective layer has been put down to keep the seed in place. Matteson stated the city is still waiting on parts for the Logan Street water salesman.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reported that the city crew found the leak at the Virginia and its between the Virginia and the maintenance shop. Mayor Ervin stated that the line has to be bored under the creek, so Scripps Park Board President, Terri Belville got a quote from Hood Construction for Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$15,480) to do that work. Mayor Ervin explained that this bid is under the Twenty Thousand Dollar (\$20,000) threshold so the city would not have to get any additional bids to move forward. Matteson stated there has been a water leak there at the Virginia for a long time and he thinks the council should move forward and have Hood Construction bore in this water line. Council Member Terry Dodds raised concern about if we fix this line would it put more pressure on the existing older water lines, and Matteson said that is a possibility, but the city crew could fix any issues from there. Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston confirmed if other problems came up, they could handle them from there, but they just could not bore under the creek. **Consensus was to have Hood Construction bore a new water line under the creek at the Virginia at a cost of Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$15,480). Mike Grate was directed to put this item on the next Consent Agenda for approval.**

Council Member, Terry Dodds praised the city crew for their hard work on the removal of snow off the city streets and keeping things open.

Street Committee Chairman, Bob Fishel reported one of the city trucks is in need of a new snow plow. Fishel stated the plow currently is broken and keeps falling off so it is now welded to the truck. Fishel said Ralston got a bid of Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$8,800) for a new snowplow from Koenig Body & Equipment out of Peoria. **Consensus was to purchase a new snowplow at a cost of**

**Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$8,800). Mike Grate was directed to this item on the next Consent agenda for approval.**

Fishel also reported that when they constructed the addition on the city maintenance shed they did not insulate the ceiling and now the furnace runs all the time. Mayor Ervin directed Ralston get a bid to have insulation blown in the ceiling of the addition and after getting the bid they will call a committee meeting to discuss and bring their recommendations to the council.

**15. ADJOURN**

**Dodds MOVED TO ADJOURN. Matteson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Ryan, Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, & Matteson; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:21 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

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Mike Grate

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Date Minutes Approved