

## 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 City Clerk, Stacey Briney 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, Mike Ryan, & Paul Trimble. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Others present included: Stacey Briney, City Clerk; Erin Wilson-Laegeler, City Attorney; Drew Ralston, Superintendent of Operations; Rick Wright, Chief of Police; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; and Kyle Lester of Waste Management.

### **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.

### **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 December 15, 2025
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Ordinance Review Committee Meetings held December 10, 2025, & December 18, 2025
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 01/05/26" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve \$500 Donation to The HUB (*as per past practice*)
- e) Accept the Resignation of Part-Time Police Officer, Heath White
- f) Approve Hutchison Engineering as the On-Site Engineer for W. LaFayette Street Project
- g) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1169, A Resolution of the City of Rushville in Support of the Illinois America250 Commemoration
- h) Approve Loan Reimbursements

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Acker, Carey, 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 INSULATING THE CEILING IN THE FIREHOUSE**

Fire & Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported he was approached by Fire Chief, Vic Menely regarding the need of insulation in the ceiling on the north end of the west building of the firehouse. Matteson noted that building is heated but there is no insulation in the ceiling, so the heat just escapes. Matteson said by doing this, he is hoping to see some savings.

Matteson stated Menely got a bid from Prairie State Insulation out of Ottawa in the amount of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$5,785) and a bid from Midwest Spray Foam out of Mt. Sterling in the amount of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$5,700).

Council Member, Mike Ryan questioned what was stored in that section of the building and if there was a need to even heat that side, and Matteson noted there were several things over there and thinks what is over there would need to be heated. Chief of Police, Rick Wright said the brush truck and UTV might be stored over there.

**Matteson MOVED TO APPROVE INSULATING THE CEILING IN THE WEST BUILDING AT THE FIREHOUSE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$5,700) FROM MIDWEST SPRAY FOAM. Trimble SECONDED.**

Ryan recommended just shutting that side off and see how the bills are. Council Member, Susan Acker said she would rather wait for Menely to be in attendance so he could answer these questions, and Fire & Water Committee Member, Mike Farniok agreed that he would like more information.

**THE MOTION FAILED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 2 YEAS – Matteson & Trimble; 6 NAYS – Carey, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, & Ryan; 0 ABSENT.**

**City Clerk, Stacey Briney was directed to place this item on the next council agenda.**

#### **8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CITY-WIDE REFUSE PICK-UP**

Ordinance Review Committee Chairman, Farniok reported the committee had met and reviewed the bids and felt that Rocket Disposal's bid came in the most economical for the residents of Rushville. Council Member, Terry Dodds asked if there was still going to be recycling, and Mayor Ervin stated everything will be the same as it is right now.

**Farniok MOVED TO APPROVE AWARDING THE CITY-WIDE REFUSE BID TO ROCKET DISPOSAL. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Carey; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.**

*Kyle Lester left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.*

#### **9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1407, ORDINANCE REGULATING INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS**

Farniok reported that the committee addressed this at the committee meeting and it was discussed at looking to make sure that ground-mounted solar panels are appealing to the residents. City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler said she had been considering a few different ordinances from other municipalities but found something similar to what the city was looking for from Plano, Illinois. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler noted this ordinance divides solar projects into three (3) different sizes and she does not ever see it being possible to install a medium or large solar farm within the city limits but there are other provisions in place. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler said the setback requirements are pretty much in line with what the city already has and includes an eight-foot (8') fence that cannot be seen through must be put up and they cannot be placed on an easement. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stressed that it is just common sense requirements but they also have to maintain the aesthetics and safety. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler explained the abandonment process as well.

Matteson said he does not remember discussing the side yards and Attorney Wilson-Laegeler and Farniok both noted the backyard was discussed. Ordinance Review Committee Member, Bob Fishel stated there is already one (1) ground-mount solar panel in the city limits and wondered if that would be grandfathered in, and Attorney Wilson-Laegeler said that would be a council decision. Mayor Ervin felt that the city would have to grandfather that in because it has been there for a long time.

**Farniok MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1407, ORDINANCE REGULATING INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS TO THE SECOND (2<sup>ND</sup>) READING. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Carey, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT; 1 ABSTAIN – Matteson.**

#### **10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING NEW FIREARMS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Committee Chairman, Mayor Ervin reported the committee met earlier and Chief Wright had a quote for five (5) new firearms with holsters and ammunition just under Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500). Mayor Ervin stated the officers would also buy back their duty weapons at Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) each.

**Farniok MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING FIVE (5) NEW FIREARMS WITH AMMUNITION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FOUR**

**THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500). Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Carey, Dodds, & Farniok; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.**

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

Industrial Park Committee Chair, Susan Acker asked City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler if she had any updates on the south one-third (1/3) of Lot 10, and Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated she received the proposed amendments of the reverter clauses from Attorney Charlie Burton today and she is going to work on some language where everyone can agree on.

Water Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported the new water salesman is installed but is not operational yet.

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds reported Stefanie Ballinger of Benton Engineering will be in town on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. to look at the sidewalk in front of Roger’s Bakery on North Liberty Street. Dodds said Ballinger will provide information to get with the survey crew on where to go with the sidewalk. **Clerk Briney was directed to post a committee meeting for that date.**

Public Buildings & Land Committee Chairman, Mike Ryan reported when the insulation was being put up in the city shed they found another section that needed to be done. Mayor Ervin said Chris Parr called him last week to let him know what they found and that it was going to cost an additional One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100) to do it, so he told them to go ahead. Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston noted the insulation is done. **Consensus of the council was to pay the additional One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100).**

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reported he attended a library meeting the other day and there seems to be a lot of stuff going around. Mayor Ervin stated he had heard through the grapevine that he was cutting finances to the library and stressed that he never said anything like that. Mayor Ervin noted he is a concerned citizen and if you take out a One Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000) donation that was given to the library a couple years ago, they would be spending Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) more than they are taking in. Mayor Ervin said, at this rate, the money that the library has will last approximately ten (10) years and they will be broke. Mayor Ervin stressed that he loves the library and has asked the board to find ways to cut back. Mayor Ervin stated he does understand that the library cannot profit but they also cannot continue to run at this deficit.

Mayor Ervin reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

**12 ADJOURN**

**Dodds MOVED TO ADJOURN. Carey SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Carey, Dodds, Farniok, & Fishel; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:26 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

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Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

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Date Minutes Approved