

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

Others present included: Stacey Briney, City Clerk; Drew Ralston, Superintendent of Operations; Rick Wright, Chief of Police; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; Kala Peacock, Schuy-Rush Park Board President; John Tribbey, Elaine Boyd, Lynn Stambaugh, Tim Ward, Kolton Mayall, & Tim Higgins, representing the Rushville Fitness & Community Center; Jason Field, representing Culbertson Memorial Hospital; Kent & Cindy Paisley, Marty & Connie Sommer, Debbie Vaughn, and Clint Theivagt.

### 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

Marty Sommer stated his family moved out to Schuy-Rush in 2019 and stressed that they love the lake and were never once told that they could not swim in the lake until last Monday. Sommer noted they always respect others and their neighbors and have never seen any abuse out there. Sommer thanked Mayor Ervin and Chief of Police, Rick Wright for getting his nephew, Clint Theivagt, side of the story. Mayor Ervin informed Sommer that he watched the body camera video with Chief Wright.

Lynn Stambaugh reported that Sunday was like a ghost town on the lake because everyone was afraid to go out there and it was kind of weird. Mayor Ervin stated the no swimming ordinance has been on the books since 1988 after a young man and his father drowned out there. Mayor Ervin said he will refer this to City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler and the council will have to go with whatever she recommends. Stambaugh stated she understands and expects there to be no swimming allowed at the dock and the banks but maybe the private docks or boat should be dealt with differently.

Mayor Ervin reported he and Chief Wright have been called about patrolling the lake, but the police do not have a boat, and he will never tell his officers to ignore any ordinance because they would have to ignore them all. Schuy-Rush Park Board President, Kala Peacock stated the board has no problem allowing swimming off of private property or even a sign stating swim at your own risk. Peacock noted there are other lakes that allow swimming at a person's own risk and the area is not roped off. Council Member, Bryan Matteson said he understands all of it, but the city's police department is very slim right now and he does not want to add more work to them. Council Member, Mike Farniok stressed that the council needs to check into what the city's liability would be on all of this. Sommer stated he understands the liability issue, but he would like for everyone to use common sense and have some more communication. Sommer said they swim off of their own dock and a lot of people float around which is a lot different than jumping in off a dock and swimming across the lake.

Clint Theivagt reported he spoke with Mayor Ervin and Chief Wright and they made it clear that his citation would be reduced to a warning. Theivagt stressed that his family enjoys the lake, but he had no idea that they could not swim. Theivagt told the council members that he appreciated their time and understanding on this issue. Mayor Ervin again noted this would be turned over to Attorney Wilson-Laegeler.

*Marty & Connie Sommer, Debbie Vaughn, & Clint Theivagt left the meeting at 7:12 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 May 18, 2026
- b) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 06/01/26" & Accept Monthly Reports
- c) Approve Hiring Mike Phillips as Part-Time at the Golf Course at a Rate of \$15/hr
- d) Approve Reserving Central Park on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for African Day (originally approved for September 5<sup>th</sup>)
- e) Approve Entering into a 3-year Contract with Western Illinois Regional Council to Write Grants at a Cost of \$1,803/year

- f) Consider Adopting Resolution No. 1177, Smiles Day Celebration
- g) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 1414, Prevailing Wage Ordinance

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

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PASSING RESOLUTION NO. 1178, TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE RUSHVILLE FITNESS & COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mayor Ervin noted that the city is the last taxing entity to approve a tax abatement for the Rushville Fitness & Community Center (RFCC). Tim Ward, representing the RFCC reported all other entities had given them a three to five (3-5) year abatement. Ward stated RFCC is currently working with Jil Tracy and Kyle Moore to take care of this because there is a state code causing issues with RFCC not being able to get the non-profit status, but they are hoping to have this done in the next three (3) years.

Matteson noted RFCC operates in the black and all other businesses are responsible for paying their taxes. Ward said RFCC is identical with a YMCA that was put in this code, but they are not treated that way. Stambaugh stated RFCC is treated as a non-for-profit and if they have to pay real estate taxes, they will not make it. Elaine Boyd, representing the RFCC said they are okay with the Federal government, but not at the state level and if they have to raise memberships to help pay for taxes, they will lose members. A discussion followed.

John Tribbey, representing the RFCC, reported this gift was made to the community and they feel they are the same as the YMCA and should be exempt from paying real estate taxes. Council Member, Susan Acker asked if the state does what RFCC wants that this will not have to be done anymore, and Stambaugh said that was correct. Tribbey said if RFCC would have to pay real estate taxes, it would take about one-quarter (1/4) of what they bring in so they would have to raise the rates. Stambaugh noted they are more than just a fitness center. Mayor Ervin stressed that the RFCC does a lot for the community. A discussion followed.

**Farniok MOVED TO PASS & ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1178, RESOLUTION TO ABATE TAXES FOR THE RUSHVILLE FITNESS AND COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 5 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Ryan, Trimble, & Acker; 1 NAY – Matteson; 2 ABSENT – Carey & Dodds.**

*John Tribbey, Elaine Boyd, Lynn Stambaugh, Time Ward, Kolton Mayall, & Tim Higgins left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.*

**8. PASS & ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1413, ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-2 OF THE RUSHVILLE CITY CODE**

**Farniok MOVED TO PASS & ADOPT ORDINANCE NO 1413, ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-2 OF THE RUSHVILLE CITY CODE. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Farniok; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Carey & Dodds.**

**9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER NO PARKING ON SOUTH MONROE STREET FOR CULBERTSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Street Committee Chairman, Bob Fishel reported he had met with Erik Price from Culbertson Memorial Hospital regarding the possibility of placing no parking signs on the east side of South Monroe from West Clinton Street north to parking lot C. Fishel noted some of the curbing is already painted yellow. Fishel stated, if there is not a no parking sign on the west side, there would need to be one from the ambulance shed to West Clinton Street. Mayor Ervin reminded everyone that if this was approved tonight, it would have to be placed on the next meeting as an ordinance to place the signs. Fishel said the city crew can go ahead and repaint the curb and then place the signs after the ordinance is approved. Fishel stressed that it will be on the hospital to call the police when someone is parked there.

Jason Field, CFO of Culbertson Memorial Hospital, stated that he appreciates this because they feel it is extremely important for the safety of those trying to exit the property. Field noted there will be a time that this area will have to act as the main entrance for a while during construction. Field said unfortunately that most of the vehicles parks on South Monroe Street are the hospital employees so they can take care of that on their end.

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE MAKING THE EAST SIDE OF SOUTH MONROE STREET FROM WEST CLINTON STREET TO PARKING LOT C AND THE WEST SIDE OF SOUTH MONROE STREET FROM THE AMBULANCE SHED TO WEST CLINTON STREET NO PARKING. Matteson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Farniok, & Fishel; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Carey & Dodds.**

Acker asked if these no parking signs would have times listed on them, and Fishel said they would not as there could be people going in and out of the hospital 24/7. **City Clerk, Stacey Briney was directed to place the ordinance to place these signs on the next council agenda.**

*Jason Field left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

#### **10. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIAL’S REPORTS**

Industrial Park Committee Chair, Susan Acker reported she would like to possibly do more to enforce the rules at the Industrial Park. Acker stated she needs to get with Attorney Wilson-Laegeler to see when the Austin’s were supposed to start construction.

Water & Sewer Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported the companies are in town locating all the utilities from East LaFayette Street east to Jefferson Street in case the city receives the grant for the upgrades.

Matteson also reported someone dumped a very large piece of tree at the city dump that we cannot move. Matteson said the city needs to remind everyone of the size limit for items that are allowed to be dumped.

Street Committee Chairman, Bob Fishel reported the city is looking at resealing the parking lot behind Kerr Homecenter and under the water tower behind the police department but have found out that the city cannot use Motor Fuel Tax dollars for these projects. Fishel noted he is going to have a committee meeting to get some estimates, etc.

Fishel asked if anyone had any updates on West LaFayette Street. Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston stated Laverdiere Construction started taking up the bricks today.

Fishel noted the sidewalk on East Jefferson Street looks good.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reported he spoke with Brian Jumper of Hutchison Engineering and Laverdiere started tearing up bricks today and they are hoping to have them all tore up by tomorrow. Mayor Ervin noted they have sixty (60) working days so the project should be done by mid-September, weather permitting. Mayor Ervin said Jumper said the street, sidewalk, and curbing will all be done fairly quickly and they will just be waiting on the lighting.

Mayor Ervin stated Laverdiere and Jumper have been in contact with the residents that live along that section several times. Mayor Ervin noted there are three (3) residents that have no way to go because they are in the middle of the street with no back access. Mayor Ervin said the trash pickup has been worked out as well.

#### **11. ADJOURN**

**Matteson MOVED TO ADJOURN. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Farniok, Fishel, & Matteson; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Carey & Dodds. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:37 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

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Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

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Date Minutes Approved