

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, Bob Fishel, Bryan Matteson, and Mike Ryan. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Council Members, Mike Farniok and Paul Trimble were absent.

Others present included: City Clerk, Stacey Briney; City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler (*arrived at 6:12 p.m.*); Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston; Sarah Pearce of *The Rushville Times*; Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent; Mason Vincent and Vic Menely, representing the Smiles Day Committee; and James Mourning.

It was noted that this meeting was rescheduled from August 17, 2026, to 6:00 p.m. on August 24, 2026, due to the sudden death of Council Member, Terry Dodds.

2. OPENING PRAYER

A moment of silence was held in memory of Council Member, Terry Dodds.

The Opening Prayer was led by Mayor Jeff Ervin.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ervin.

4. MASON VINCENT & VIC MENELY – SMILES DAY UPDATE

Mason Vincent, representing the Smiles Day Committee, presented the requests for Smiles Day 2026. (*Said requests are attached and a part of these minutes*). Vincent reported the committee is going back to bounce houses this year and they will be set up on Thursday, September 10th. Vincent stated the buses usually park on East Madison Street, but they are going to put them on South Liberty in hopes to keep the parade moving.

Vincent said they have been working with the Post Office, and they have agreed to do a bicentennial station cancellation on September 11th to commemorate the 200th year of Rushville. Vincent presented a document showing a postage cancellation stamp. *Said document is attached and a part of these minutes*).

Vincent invited all of the elected officials to the afternoon program starting at 2:00 p.m. at the gazebo.

Vic Menely, representing the Smiles Day Committee, reported the Chamber of Commerce is going to do the kiddie parade this year and it will start at 9:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church and go to Ayerco, just like it used to be in the past.

Menely stated the committee carries their own liability insurance. Menely noted there are seven (7) people on the committee and each one has their own job, but they could not do it without the support from the city council, city crew, and police department. Vincent said since Rushville has a dentist office in town again, he asked them if they would like to have the smile contest like they did several years ago, and they agreed to do it.

5. DISCUSS & CONSIDER \$1,000 DONATION TO SMILES DAY COMMITTEE FOR ADVERTISING

Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$1,000) DONATION TO THE SMILES DAY COMMITTEE FOR ADVERTISING. Matteson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 5 YEAS – Acker, Carey, Fishel, Matteson, & Ryan; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Farniok & Trimble.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments at this time.

7. 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 August 3, 2026
- b) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 08/17/26" & Accept Monthly Reports
- c) Approve Closing the East Side (Inside) Driving Lane on Sunday, September 6th, for African Day
- d) Approve Suspending the Rules RE: Ordinance No. 1418, Ordinance Amending Section 50-111(a), Establishment & Organization (Number of Board Members on Schuy-Rush Park Board)
- e) Pass & Adopt Ordinance No. 1418, Ordinance Amending Section 50-111(a), Establishment & Organization
- f) Approve Appointment of Roy Atwater & Joe Ackman to the Schuy-Rush Park Board
- g) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1180, Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for LaFayette Street Reconstruction
- h) Approve Purchasing New Tires for Animal Control Truck at a Cost not to Exceed \$800

Ryan MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Carey SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 5 YEAS – Carey, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Farniok & Trimble.

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR A NEW TRACTOR AT THE CEMETERY

Cemetery Committee Chairman, Mike Carey reported the cemetery currently has a 2001 tractor that needs about Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) in repairs. Carey noted he would like to see the tractor updated so himself and Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent have considered getting bids. Mayor Ervin stated the cemetery has two (2) grave digging machines and Vincent has been calling around to see if there are any other cemeteries interested in one (1) of them. Cemetery Committee Member, Bryan Matteson said he asked Vincent to come up with some specifications on what he would like have.

Matteson stated the city has an excavator that is in pretty good shape that could be used to dig graves, and Vincent reiterated that the excavator works very good for that. Matteson noted Superintendent of Operations, Drew Ralston told Vincent that he could use it anytime he needed it as long as the city crew did not need it. Vincent reported that he would like to utilize one of the city guys to help with graves when needed, and Mayor Ervin said he did not have a problem with that as long as there was someone available. Vincent thanked the city crew and prison crew for helping at the cemetery and likes seeing everyone working together. **No action was taken at this time.**

10. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Industrial Park Committee Chair, Susan Acker reported the HELP Center would like to build a new building. Acker noted she informed them of the one-half (1/2) lot by the daycare.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Council Member, Acker also reported the section of West LaFayette Street looks very good. Acker said the contractor worked very hard and it is done sooner than expected. Mayor Ervin stated the boulevards will be seeded, grass will be planted, and the lighting will be done.

Water & Sewer Committee Chairman, Bryan Matteson reported himself and Ralston met with Jeremy from Richards Electric to look at the generator situation at the sewer lab. Matteson stated the generator they had will not work with the SCADA system nor at Logan Street. Matteson noted the salesman is drawing up what we would need so we can see what is feasible.

Matteson said there are two (2) services at the DHS water tower and Ralston has been talking about switching to one (1) service. Ralston stated the county has equipment in there so if they could run their power to our generator then they would not have to worry about losing power.

Council Member, Bob Fishel reported there were a lot of people that attended the HUB's Night Market, and he had some people question who was in charge of the Dr. Dohner bench. Fishel said the bench looks pretty rough and there is green mossy stuff growing under it. Matteson noted Central Park Waterer, Monte Simpson might be able to power wash it.

City Clerk, Stacey Briney reported the council is going to have to address the number of hours Simpson can work before next year or try something different. Clerk Briney stressed that Simpson is doing a great job, but the when the council approved hiring for this position, it was for twenty (20) hours per week. Clerk Briney said people from PRIDE are telling him he needs to water more, which makes him go over the allotted hours. Clerk Briney noted there are some weeks that Simpson was working twenty-five to thirty (25-30) hours.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler reported the council needs to obtain bids or solicit for someone to clean up the property at 1 Spencer Lane (Sonny Beatty property). Attorney Wilson-Laegeler said there has been an abate ordinance going on for two (2) years and Beatty will pick some stuff up and then more will show up. Mayor Ervin wondered if the city crew might give the council a quote on what it would cost to clean up. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler noted this matter probably does not require to be bid out but something needs to get done. **Clerk Briney was directed to place *Discuss & Consider Approving Cleaning Up the Property at 1 Spencer Lane* on the next council agenda.**

Carey asked Attorney Wilson-Laegeler if there were any procedures regarding abandon houses, and Attorney Wilson-Laegeler noted there are a few ways the city can handle these situations. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated she has been in contact with the States Attorney and there is a company called Land Banks that come in to help municipalities with these issues. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler said Land Bank would reduce the city's liability because they take ownership of the property. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated she would like to set up a meeting with a local Land Bank to see what they can offer the city and if the city can get with the county, we might get a better rate. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler noted the city can look into rehabilitating some of these properties. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated these properties would not be the city's property to buy into, but it might save money in the long run and hopefully the houses would be back in the tax base.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reported the council had discussed getting a generator at City Hall about one and one-half (1 ½) years ago and Richards Electric was going to install one for Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$24,950), but after multiple attempts, nothing has ever been done. Mayor Ervin stated he found a Generac natural gas in-home generator at Kerr Homecenter for Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Ten Cents (\$6,875.10). Mayor Ervin noted Erik Monteen of APIS quoted the city Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Ninety-Seven Cents (\$5,818.97) to run the lines and install it. Mayor Ervin said that total would be Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars and Seven Cents (\$12,694.07), saving the city Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$12,225). Mayor Ervin said he ordered the generator and Kerr's will keep it in their warehouse until APIS is ready to install it. Mayor Ervin noted that Richards was going to charge the city about One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) as a restocking fee for the one they ordered. Mayor Ervin reminded the council that the city had already approved waiving the bidding process and purchasing a generator several meetings ago.

11. ADJOURN

Fishel MOVED TO ADJOURN. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 5 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Acker, & Carey; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Farniok & Trimble. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 6:28 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

Date Minutes Approved