

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 Carson Klitz 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, Jeff Ervin, Bob Lambert, Mike Ryan, Scott Stoll, Paul Trimble, and Larry Wilson. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Others present included: Stacey Briney, City Clerk; Charlie Burton, City Attorney; Nathan Campbell, Superintendent of Operations; Rick Wright, Chief of Police; David Haney of *The Rushville Times*; Linda Butler & Gogo Her, representing GROW Rushville; Gary Holmes, representing Scripps Park Board; and Dillon Ingles.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Carson Klitz.

3. GROW RUSHVILLE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Linda Butler, representing GROW Rushville presented documents describing what GROW Rushville and the Schuyler County Community Foundation stands for and what their duties are. *Said documents are attached and a part of these minutes.* Butler reported the Schuyler County Community Foundation is the governing body for GROW Rushville, which is a volunteer group emphasizing on community and economic development.

Butler said everything is in the information that she has given but they wanted to meet with both the city and county to talk about a partnership to make economic development stronger than what it is now. Butler stated the Schuyler County Community Foundation was founded in 2008 and has had Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000) run through there. Butler noted they have since partnered with Astoria and Brown County for better opportunities for those communities. Butler said they have Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) in assets and many of those funds have been beneficial to the city. Butler stated their goal is to be self-sustained.

Butler thanked the council for the opportunity.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dillon Ingles of GM Sipes Construction said he was in attendance to see about the city gifting them the alleyway between Little Street and Pennwood Drive and the easement. Ingles noted Little Street dead ends at their property and they have acquired the property on the corner of Pennwood Drive so they would like to move their fence to the corner. Ingles stated the city does not maintain that short section anyway. Council Member, Terry Dodds asked if there was any infrastructure there, and Superintendent of Operations, Nathan Campbell said there is a four-inch (4") main with a two-inch (2") line going to that particular property. Campbell said Sipes' tore down the old trailer and are going to put up a shed. Campbell reported he feels it is in the city's best interest to deed it over to them, move our water meter and pit, and get out of their way. Campbell noted, either way, the line will be abandoned so it is not on private property. Water Committee Chairman, Jeff Ervin asked if the water pit was moved, if Sipes' would take over the responsibility to run their own water line, and Ingles said they would. Mayor Klitz noted he is unfamiliar with this and would like to look at it to see what and where this is happening. A discussion followed. **City Clerk, Stacey Briney was directed to place *Discuss & Consider Gifting 210' of Little Street to GM Sipes Construction* on the next council agenda.**

Dillon Ingles left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Gary Holmes, representing the Scripps Park Board reported he thinks it is a bad idea for the city to take over the retention pond in the new subdivision on East Clinton Street because no one is sure about the drainage 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 March 1, 2021
- b. Approve the Minutes of the Street Committee Meeting held March 3, 2021; & Combined TIF Committee & Joint Review Board Meeting held March 10, 2021
- c. Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 03/15/21" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d. Approve Hiring Marlon Magelitz, Shon Vaughn, & Ryu Vaughn as Part-Time Employees in the Cemetery
- e. Consider Removing the Stop Sign at the Intersection of Elm Street and South Jackson Street

Wilson MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Acker, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, Stoll, Trimble, & Wilson; 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 SALE OF .057 ACRES OF 11 RODEWALD DRIVE – US CELLULAR TOWER

Ervin asked how long the city could maintain this agreement, and City Attorney, Charlie Burton stated this is a self-renewing lease and the city can choose to take a lump sum payment or payments over a period of time. Mayor Klitz reported that if Scripps Park sells this piece of property to US Cellular, they will just put the money in a certificate of deposit (CD) or somewhere. Mayor Klitz noted this lease agreement generated about Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to the park last year and it increases three percent (3%) each year. Mayor Klitz said if the park sells and gets the money, it will be spent and then they will have nothing but a memory.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Larry Wilson stated no one knows what the life expectancy of a cell tower will be because there will be enough satellites around in two (2) years that they might be obsolete. Wilson said the park will have that Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) when the towers are still good, but when they are not good anymore, then there will not be anything. Ervin noted it would be a lot cheaper to update the tower instead of putting in a new one.

Mayor Klitz reported, at the same juncture, if revenues at the park decrease, at least they can rely on the Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) every year to put towards their bills. Mayor Klitz said US Cellular has tried to buy this tower before. Mayor Klitz stressed that he just does not think the city and park should turn down guaranteed money. A discussion followed.

Ryan MOVED TO APPROVE SELLING THE .057 ACRES OF 11 RODEWALD DRIVE IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO US CELLULAR IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$136,500). Wilson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION FAILED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 0 YEAS; 8 NAYS – Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, Stoll, Trimble, Wilson, & Acker; 0 ABSENT.

8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER MY FARM BUSINESS SELLING BACK LOT 7 IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK

Council Member, Scott Stoll reported Bill Pherigo and Adam Bauer purchased lot 7 in the Industrial Park to put up My Farm Business that used to be in the Billingsley Accounting office building. Stoll stated Pherigo and Bauer also purchased the old dentist office on West Washington Street in hopes of getting another dentist to go in there, but that did not work out so they moved their office into that building. Stoll noted they would like for the city to purchase lot 7 from them like we did with Los Charros.

Stoll MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY BUYING BACK LOT 7 IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK, LESS FEES AND TAXES FROM MY FARM BUSINESS. Trimble SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, Stoll, Trimble, Wilson, Acker, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF GLASS LANE SUBDIVISION

Ervin asked what Windsor Homes wants to do and Attorney Burton said they have not said a word to him. Attorney Burton stated the gentleman from Windsor Homes left the plat and said to look it over. Attorney Burton noted he told them he did not like the words “planning commission” since the city does not have one and would like that changed to “city council”, he cannot get them to change it. Wilson asked if the city was going to get the street and the drainage, and Attorney Burton stated the street but not the drainage. Wilson reported he wondered if the city was setting themselves up for complaints from people with water in their crawl spaces since the water is going over to the ditch and into the yards of the houses on Dona’s Drive. Mayor Klitz recommended tabling this matter and have Attorney Burton look into it further.

Campbell reported there are a couple houses in that area that have already had water in their crawl spaces that they have been doing some dirt work for. Campbell said Windsor Homes is going to put in a berm to help alleviate the problem. Stoll asked if this will make any issues with our current infrastructure, and Campbell stated he did not think so. Wilson noted the volume of water will be exasperating. Attorney Burton suggested maybe meeting with an engineer to make sure everything is correct, and Wilson stated that should be at Windsor Homes’ expense and not the city’s. Campbell said he will contact them tomorrow. **No action was taken and this item will appear on the next council agenda.**

10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING BODY CAMERAS

Police Committee Member, Jeff Ervin reported the committee met with Chief of Police, Rick Wright and the department had been testing some cameras the last several months. Ervin said, with the new law that has passed, we are eventually going to have to have them and the ones they tested work really good. Ervin stated Chief Wright would like to purchase eight (8) cameras, which would cover all full-time and some for the part-time), and they are Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$499) each, bringing the amount to Four Thousand One Dollar and Ninety-Five Cents (\$4,001.95).

Ervin reported, along this same line, Chief Wright would like to purchase a computer to download the videos on and that would be an additional Five Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$575.99). Ervin noted the money is available in the appropriations. Council Member, Terry Dodds asked if there would a cost for updates every year and Chief Wright said there is no expense every year for updates and that is why they selected purchasing the cameras from 10-8 Video and not renting them.

Ervin MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING EIGHT (8) BODY CAMERAS AT A COST OF FOUR THOUSAND ONE DOLLAR AND NINETY-FIVE CENTS (\$4,001.95), AND A COMPUTER TO DOWNLOAD THE VIDEOS ON AT A COST OF FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NINETY-NINE CENTS (\$575.99). Stoll SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Lambert, Ryan, Stoll, Trimble, Wilson, Acker, Dodds, & Ervin; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

11. DISCUSS & CONSIDER HIRING FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Ervin reported also during their committee meeting, they talked about replacing Molly Wright with a full-time officer. Ervin stated the committee recommended promoting Ted Eifert, who is already part-time. Ervin noted since Eifert already is working for the police department, we will not have to advertise for that position. Ervin stated Eifert will have to attend a two (2) week transition class in June.

Ervin MOVED TO HIRE TED EIFERT AS FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. Wilson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Ryan, Stoll, Trimble, Wilson, Acker, Dodds, Ervin, & Lambert; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

12. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING ENGINEERING COST FOR SPECIFICATIONS FOR SIDEWALKS ON EAST LAFAYETTE STREET & SOUTH LIBERTY STREET

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Chairman, Stoll reported Jeff Olson of Hutchison Engineering informed him that in order to use Rebuild Illinois funds, the city would have to go through the proper channels for the two (2) sidewalks that were discussed earlier and hire an engineer. Stoll stated Olson estimated the engineering cost would not exceed Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) and that would be to get the specifications for the project. Mayor Klitz said the city does not have the money for this, and Stoll noted there is Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) in the Rebuild Illinois money. Mayor Klitz said the council was told that it would cost One Hundred Sixty to One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$160,000 - \$170,000) to do this project, and Stoll stated if the city would decide to do both sidewalks it would cost that amount.

Wilson questioned what it cost the city do to the LaFayette Street extension, and Attorney Burton said he thought it was about Three Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$365,000). Ervin stated the gentleman that attending the TIF Committee meeting from Spoon River College said that they city could use any excess TIF money to revitalize the town, but Ervin was not sure if the city could do this or not.

Mayor Klitz reported that sometime in 2014, the city paid Ninety-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Eighty-Three Cents (\$92,922.83) in engineering fees to do a block of West LaFayette Street that was not even done. Mayor Klitz noted the city paid all that money for something that will come to pass. Mayor Klitz stated then the city paid Benton & Associates One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$131,250) in engineering fees for Phase 1 for the water projects. Mayor Klitz said the city will be spending Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$828,000) and still will owe about a ten percent (10%) fee unless we get free money. Mayor Klitz stressed that the city will not do the sidewalk project for One Hundred Sixty to One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$160,000 - \$170,000). Wilson noted the city still needs someone to tell us what we need. Stoll stated he is just going off of what he is being told the city has to do to go through the proper channels to use the Rebuild Illinois money. Butler said it is allowable for the city to use the excess funds in the TIF fund and everything that is left at the end of the fiscal year is considered to be excess.

Ervin noted he feels someone like Sipes' could do the work for a lot less money. Council Member, Mike Ryan asked if these sidewalks were going to get fixed. Council Member, Paul Trimble wondered if these two (2) sidewalks were something that the city crew could do, and Campbell said he thinks it is too big of a project for their small crew and would take up too much manpower where nothing else would get done. Stoll stated the sidewalk on East LaFayette Street would be easy but the one on South Liberty Street is a three-tier sidewalk and there really is not a good place to stop with it. Wilson suggested talking to Megan Crook from IMEG to see about getting another engineering bid. Stoll stressed that maybe this is where the city could benefit in working with the county to use their engineer. A discussion followed. **No action was taken and this item will appear on the next council agenda.**

13. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING TIF GRANT FOR SUSAN'S ULTIMATE SALON

TIF Committee Chairman, Wilson reported the committee met with the Joint Review Board to review the application from Susan's Ultimate Salon. Wilson stated Susan Grate is applying for a Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000) grant with the total cost of her project being Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$30,500). The committee recommends the council approve a grant of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to help with the remodel since this is keeping two (2) other hairstylists in town after Liberty Street Hairstylist closed.

Wilson MOVED TO APPROVE A TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$12,000) TIF GRANT TO SUSAN'S ULTIMATE SALON. Ervin SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Trimble, Wilson, Acker, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, & Stoll; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

14. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Cemetery Committee Chairman, Bob Lambert reported the cemetery is getting busy. Lambert noted there is an ad in the newspaper looking for part-time help. Lambert said Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent already has a couple guys started.

Lambert also reported Vincent would like to put up another shed to house the grave digger because he has to keep it in the old firehouse right now. Lambert stated there is already a concrete pad behind the main shed that can be used.

Council Member, Jeff Ervin reported the ministerial association would like to reserve Central Park on Sunday, April 4th, from 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. for Sunrise Services. **Consensus agreed to allow them to use Central Park.**

Water Committee Chairman, Jeff Ervin reported Brotcke is done with the new well and are in the process of getting the generator up and running. Ervin stated, as of February 28th, the water fund has Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) in cash on hand but there are two (2) CDs earmarked for the new well, one being Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) and the other one being approximately Two Hundred One Thousand Dollars (\$201,000). Ervin said he would like to get a consensus of the council to cash in the Two Hundred One Thousand Dollar (\$201,000) CD to have operating money. Ervin noted the city still owes One Hundred Six Thousand Eight Hundred Three Dollars (\$106,803) on the new well. Ervin stated he is hoping to leave the other CD alone or maybe use it for Logan Street. Mayor Klitz said he talked to Tim Kelly of Brotcke and that payoff is correct. Mayor Klitz noted Kelly told him that they should be done in two (2) weeks. Wilson asked if the new well has been pump tested and Campbell said it has but he has not heard anything back so he is assuming everything tested okay. Ervin noted he put a little extra money in the appropriations for testing because of the new well. **Consensus was to cash in the Two Hundred One Thousand Dollar (\$201,000) CD.**

15. ADJOURN

Wilson MOVED TO ADJOURN. Ervin SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Wilson, Acker, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, Stoll, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 8:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

Date Minutes Approved