

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 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, and Paul Trimble. Council Member, Scott Stoll & Larry Wilson were absent. 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*; Tim Higgins, representing the Scripps Park Board; Jason Triplett, Maggie Michel, Marian Mellor, Barry Rebman, Richard Davis, and Linda Ward.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Carson Klitz.

3. 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 April 19, 2021
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Union Negotiating Committee Meetings held April 19, 2021; Street Committee Meeting held April 26, 2021; & Police Committees Meeting held April 27, 2021
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 04/30/21" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve Line Item Transfers

Ervin MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Acker, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 2 ABSENT – Stoll & Wilson.

4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MARCH 2, 2020; GRIEVANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD AUGUST 6, 2020, MARCH 23, 2021, & MARCH 24, 2021 – 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21)

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5. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 7:06 p.m. with the following present: Mayor Klitz; Council Members – Acker, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, & Trimble; City Clerk, Stacey Briney; Superintendent of Operations, Nathan Campbell; Chief of Police, Rick Wright; David Haney of *The Rushville Times*; Tim Higgins, Scripps Park Board Member; Jason Triplett, Maggie Michel, Marian Mellor, Barry Rebman, Richard Davis, and Linda Ward.

6. RECESS – ADJOURN SINE DIE

The recess was called in order for the clerk to administer the oaths of office to the newly elected officials.

7. ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Clerk, Stacey Briney administered the Oaths of Office to the following elected officials: Aldermen – Jeff Ervin; Bob Lambert; Mike Ryan; Barry Rebman; and Richard Davis.

8. RECONVENE WITH NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS IN PLACE

The Rushville City Council Meeting reconvened and the newly elected officials accepted their seats at the council table.

9. ROLL CALL

Mayor Carson Klitz called the meeting to order and directed Clerk Briney to call the roll. Upon ROLL CALL, the following answered present, Mayor Klitz; Council Members: Susan Acker, Richard Davis, Terry Dodds, Jeff Ervin, Bob Lambert, Barry Rebman, Mike Ryan, & Paul Trimble.

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*; Tim Higgins, representing the Scripps Park Board; Jason Triplett, Maggie Michel, Marian Mellor, and Linda Ward.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marian Mellor introduced herself to the council members and said she had been having water problems at her house on Dona's Drive. Mellor stated she was here tonight to thank the council and the city workers for listening to her and Maggie Michel. Mellor noted on April 14th, she was told a sink hole had been concreted in so then the city workers tore out the concrete. Mellor said when she checked her sump pump after that, there was not one drop of water in it. Mellor noted one of the city workers told her when they dug down to the tile, the water gushed in the hole. Mellor said she has not had a problem since. Mellor stated she is not sure if this is a permanent fix but it is sure working for now. Mayor Klitz told Mellor and Michel that he appreciates them taking their time to come up to the meeting to tell everyone that the city workers did a good job because they do not hear that much.

Jason Triplett stated he was in attendance representing the ministerial association and on April 25th, a group of administrators and different people of different organizations, for example, Schuyler-Industry School District, police department/sheriff's office, Pregnancy Resource Center, Two Rivers Regional Council, Quanada, public & mental health, etc. met to talk about the homeless population in Schuyler County. Triplett noted he has been in Rushville since 2012 and has worked with the sheriff's office on all different kinds of emergencies and crises.

Triplett reported the idea of forming this organization was to address the housing issues. Triplett stated all the people agreed that there needed to be some organized effort to link with the services after housing the homeless. Triplett said there is probably only a twenty-four (24) hour to one (1) week partnership with someone to house the homeless and they have been doing that without insurance and a number to call for housing. Triplett noted they are not looking at a facility but would like to do a thirty to ninety (30-90) day housing, so they are looking into some sort of housing or duplex to get assistance, job training, rent help, etc.

Council Member, Mike Ryan asked how prevalent this is, and Triplett stated in January and February, he received five (5) calls regarding homeless people. Chief of Police, Rick Wright said they had a call of someone sleeping out down by the old Alexander Lumber building and he has had to call the ministerial association a couple times during the winter time. Triplett reported this problem will probably get bigger. Triplett stated they are also looking at the possibility of spreading out to the surrounding five (5) counties. Triplett said they are filing for a 501C3 status and he does not think there would be any federal or state funding but is hoping churches and other individuals will help out.

Jason Triplett left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Scripps Park Pool Committee Chairman, Tim Higgins stated he put together some numbers from the 2019 season. Higgins reported the expenses were approximately Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) and the revenues were approximately Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000). Higgins noted that is the first year he can find in twenty (20) years that was profitable. Council Member, Terry Dodds asked if the solar panels were paying for the electricity, and Higgins said not all of it. Higgins said the electric bills have been about Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000). Higgins stated it is very costly to run the heater but it is there if they ever need it. Higgins said it could about Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) per month to run the pump for the slide, circulating pump, and the pump in the zero-entry part.

Higgins reported the labor was approximately Forty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000), which includes Medicare and social security. Higgins reminded the council that number will go up with the increase in minimum wage, but they cannot reduce the number of people they have since it is a state law to have a certain amount of people in certain areas. A discussion followed.

Higgins stated, as of right now, the State of Illinois is in Phase 4 which only allows the pool to have fifty (50) people in the area, and that number includes employees. Higgins noted that would only allow for about forty-two (42) swimmers. Higgins said the only other option would be to close the concession stand but that would only be one (1) employee there. Higgins reported the concessions revenue in 2019 was Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$19,970) with expenses being Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$11,500) not including labor. Council Member, Jeff Ervin stated he does not think the pool will save much by closing the concession stand. Higgins said Ervin was right but the pool also has a sign posted that they do not allow for outside food or drink.

Higgins reported he figures it would cost about Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to operate the pool this summer. Higgins said he knows there are several pools around the area that are opening but most of them are park district owned. Mayor Klitz stated he does not feel comfortable having the city pay all the upfront expenses to get the pool going. Higgins noted he has a feeling that money in the Scripps Park account is going to be gone by winter. Mayor Klitz said he is not opposed to discussing this but he knows when you get something for nothing, it always cost someone.

Mayor Klitz reported the first thing that needs to be done is to decide if it will even be feasible to open the doors to the pool this year. Mayor Klitz reminded everyone that the parks are there as a service and they are not there to make money but in the same sentence, we cannot afford to lose it all either. Higgins stated that eventually the park is going to have to ask the city for money so that is why he brought this information to the council.

Higgins asked the council members how the park board should proceed with this because they are just an advisory committee. Higgins wondered if the city was going to make the decision to open the pool this year or leave it closed and what they would like the park board to do. Mayor Klitz stated he feels the boards are there to take care of the operations and the council should not be here to second guess them. Ervin said it would be a shame if the pool is closed again this year. Higgins noted the next phase in the state is the bridge phase and that would allow the pool to be a fifty percent (50%) capacity which means they could fully open because they would never hit that number. Mayor Klitz stressed that this decision is going to have to happen really quick. **Clerk Briney was directed to place *Discuss & Consider Opening the Swimming Pool for the 2021 Season* on the next council agenda.**

11. 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 "Claims for Council Approval Dated 05/03/21"
- b) Consider Mayoral Appointments
- c) Present 2021-2022 Committee Appointments
- d) Present Report of Licenses Issued May 3, 2021
- e) Approve Public Notice of the Regular Meeting Dates of the City Council for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year
- f) Approve Operating Under the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Appropriation Ordinance
- g) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1119, Designating a Depository and Authorizing Signatures (RSB)
- h) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1120, Designating a Depository and Authorizing Signatures (Marine)
- i) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1121, Designating a Depository and Authorizing Signatures (1st Bankers Trust)
- j) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1122, Designating a Depository and Authorizing Signatures (West Central Bank)
- k) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1123, Resolution Appointing City Attorney
- l) Approve \$500 Donation for Veteran's Flags in Central Park (*as per past practice*)
- m) Approve \$500 Donation to Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation for 16th Annual Dr. Russell Dohner Tournament (*as per past practice*)

Ervin MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Acker, Davis, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

13. DISCUSS & CONSIDER 2ND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1335, ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Ervin MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1335, ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO THE THIRD (3RD) READING. Lambert SECONDED, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Davis, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

14. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Union Negotiating Committee Member, Ervin reported the committee met with Police Officer, Kevin Murray and a representative from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) regarding the new contract. Ervin noted the police officers were not really asking for a lot with the only changes being raising their max comp time from sixty (60) hours to eighty (80) hours, holiday pay from Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) per year to Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300) per year, and a 3 ¼% wage increase. Ervin noted there was some of language changes but that was all applicable to the laws changing.

Ervin stated both the committee and the FOP agreed to the increase in the comp time and holiday pay. Ervin said the committee countered with three percent (3%) increase in the wages and FOP agreed to that.

Ervin MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Davis; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

15. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING CELL PHONES FOR THE POLICE OFFICERS

Police Committee Member, Ervin reported there had been some recent activity where a person was arrested and that person subpoenaed the arresting officer's personal cell phone for text messages. Ervin stated Chief Wright went to US Cellular to see what it would cost to add six (6) new cell phones, five (5) for the full-timers and one (1) for the part-timers, to the city's current plan. Ervin said the cost would be about Four Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$4,295) give or take with the taxes. Ervin noted the committee felt this was the best thing to do and the phones would only be used while on duty. Dodds asked if the officers would still carry their personal phones, and Chief Wright said they would but any work-related activity would be done on the city phones. Chief Wright noted the problem is that the officers have “contacts” on their phones and they really do not want those names and phone numbers out there.

Ervin MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING SIX (6) CELL PHONES FROM US CELLULAR FOR THE POLICE OFFICERS AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$4,295) PER YEAR. Trimble SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Ervin, Lambert, Ryan, Trimble, Wilson, Acker, Davis, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

16. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING NEW SQUAD CAR

Ervin reported the blue squad car has over ninety thousand (90,000) miles on it and he feels it is time to stop kicking the can down the road. Chief Wright stated he had made some calls in December to get prices, which are still good, and Thomas Brothers Dodge priced him a 2021 Dodge Durango at Thirty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and Ninety-Five Cents (\$35,232.95). Chief Wright noted that price included a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) trade-in on the 2013 Ford Explorer and uplifting with the police equipment on the new one.

Chief Wright reported the department has money in the DUI fund, vehicle fund, and drug enforcement fund that can be used to purchase the new car. Dodds asked if the car has to be lettered stating that if those funds are used, and Chief Wright noted it can be but that law changed now so it does not have to be. Chief Wright stated there is Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Four Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents (\$29,404.49) in those funds but he would like to only take Twenty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and Ninety-Five Cents (\$23,732.95) out of them, which would make the general fund pay only Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$11,500).

Dodds MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING A NEW 2021 DODGE DURANGO SQUAD CAR FROM THOMAS BROTHERS DODGE AT A COST OF THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS AND NINETY-FIVE CENTS (\$35,232.95). Ervin SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds, & Ervin; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

17. DISCUSS & CONSIDER REPLACING GARAGE DOOR AT THE STREET SHED

Public Buildings Committee Chairman, Paul Trimble reported he met with Superintendent of Operations, Nathan Campbell about replacing five (5) overhead doors at the city shed. Trimble noted the estimated cost of those doors is Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$7,283).

Campbell stated when the appropriations were done for the street department, they put Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000) in building maintenance to be used for stuff like this. Campbell said there have five (5) unheated bays with uninsulated doors and they are in pretty bad shape. Campbell stressed he would like to replace them before they lose the entire building. Campbell stated Overhead Door priced the doors at Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$18,800) but they decided they could do the work themselves and just purchase the material from Crossroads Lumber in Macomb. Campbell said he would like to also pour five (5) footings first and then replace the doors as they get some spare time. Campbell noted it should only take two (2) guys about five (5) working days to do the job.

Trimble MOVED TO APPROVE REPLACING FIVE (5) GARAGE DOORS AT THE STREET SHED AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$7,283). Lambert SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds, Ervin, & Lambert; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

18. DISCUSS & CONSIDER HIRING PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

There was no discussion or action taken on this item at this time.

19. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

Council Member, Paul Trimble reported he would like the council to consider the possibility of a dog park in the future. Trimble thought maybe the lot the city owns on East Clinton Street would be a good place. Trimble noted there are grants out there that maybe the city could look into. Dodds said this was actually talked about around eight (8) years ago but it never went anywhere. Trimble stated there would need to be a culvert put in and some leveling done but it probably is not anything the city workers could not handle.

Council Member, Susan Acker asked City Attorney, Charlie Burton if the deed to the lot for the tiny homes was done yet, and Attorney Burton said it was finally finished.

Council Member, Bob Lambert reported it is time to start watering the plants uptown so he would like to have the Grievance & Personnel Committee call a meeting to interview the applicants that we have. Mayor Klitz said when the city approached the Operating Engineers Union to ask to hire three to four (3-4) high school kids to pour sidewalks, they said no. Mayor Klitz thought maybe hiring an extra person at the cemetery would be best but the main job would be to water the flowers. Mayor Klitz noted he does not want to get crossways with the union. Mayor Klitz asked Lambert to look into this and maybe address it at the next meeting.

Council Member, Richard Davis thanked everyone on welcoming him to the council. Davis said he is excited to learn.

Street Committee Chairman, Mike Ryan called for a Street Committee meeting on Monday, May 10th, at 8:30 a.m. to *Discuss Oil & Chipping the Parking Lot at Scripps Park.*

Council Member, Barry Rebman said he would like to reiterate what Davis said.

Council Member, Jeff Ervin reminded the council members of the ribbon cutting on May 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the lot of the new tiny homes for Veterans. Ervin asked anyone from the city that can attend to please do so. Ervin said Congressman Darrin LaHood will also be there.

Water Committee Chairman, Jeff Ervin reported the city applied for the Community Project Fund through Congressman LaHood's office. Ervin noted each congressman gets ten (10) projects to fund. Ervin said he received a call last week that the city is one (1) out of the ten (10) projects LaHood is submitting, so we are on the list.

20. ADJOURN

Ervin MOVED TO ADJOURN. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 8:10 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

Date Minutes Approved