

## 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, Richard Davis, Jeff Ervin, Bob Lambert, Barry Rebman, Mike Ryan, and Paul Trimble. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Member, Terry Dodds was absent.

Others present included: Stacey Briney, City Clerk; Nathan Campbell, Superintendent of Operations; and David Haney of *The Rushville Times*; Linda Butler, Tim Ward, & Cathy Redshaw, representing GROW Rushville.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Carson Klitz.

### **3. LINDA BUTLER, REPRESENTING GROW RUSHVILLE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL RE: LOT 10 IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Linda Butler presented a picture of the hotel company GROW Rushville is talking with. *Said picture is attached and a part of these minutes.* Butler stated GROW Rushville's goal is to bring in a modern hotel with all of the amenities to be placed on Lot 10 in the Industrial Park. Butler said GROW has been researching various options, areas, etc. for this hotel.

Butler reported they have been working with Cobblestone, which is the same company that was interested back in 2016. Butler noted Cobblestone is very interested in towns like Rushville. Butler said Lot 10 is large enough for what they need. Butler stated they are looking at a forty-five (45) bed hotel, two (2) or three (3) stories, small conference room, pool, and exercise room.

Butler stated GROW is asking for time to work in 2022 to acquire the lot for this hotel. Mayor Klitz said the city already has an offer for that particular lot and wondered if Butler was asking the city to not sell the lot yet and give GROW time to get their "ducks in a row", and Butler said that was correct.

Council Member, Bob Lambert asked if there would need to be a new feasibility study done, and Butler noted there may not need to be one depending on the funding. Butler said they talked with Cobblestone and they would get GROW in contact with whomever we needed to get one done if necessary. A discussion followed regarding working out something between the hotel, the city, and the fitness center.

Council Member, Jeff Ervin asked if GROW was going to need the entire year to work on this, and Butler stated she would like to see something done sooner but with the financing issues, etc. it might take longer. Butler stressed that GROW wants this hotel to be successful. Butler said Cobblestone would oversee the hotel for the first five (5) years. Mayor Klitz noted the city will work with GROW the best way they can. Council Member, Richard Davis asked if this would be a franchise hotel and Butler said it could be but they are going to look at local ownership. Tim Ward stressed that the fitness center will support this project in any way they can.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tim Ward reported he was in attendance with Butler and Cathy Redshaw on behalf of the Schuyler County Economic Development Commission (SCEDC), which goes back fifteen to twenty (15-20) years ago. Ward presented a document that told a little about SCEDC. *Said document is attached and a part of these minutes.* Ward stressed that their goal is to bring economic development to the city and county.

Ward reported there have been some talks about leasing some space in the old city hall building. Ward stated the committee has looked at it with Chief of Police, Rick Wright and they are interested in the old Chief of Police office and the small meeting room. Ward noted they felt this would be the best location since it is between both the city and county and those are the entities that will be funding it. Ward said he is asking the city to draw up an agreement with SCEDC because the grant has to be submitted by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Ward noted they are hoping to get Fifty to Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000 - \$60,000). Ward said the remodeling would benefit the city police as well. Ward stated they are trying to get one (1) entity under one roof. Ward said the intergovernmental agreement between the city and county will be drawn up by the State's Attorney. **Consensus was to move forward with the agreement. City Clerk, Stacey Briney was directed to place approval of the agreement on the next council agenda.**

*Linda Butler, Tim Ward, and Cathy Redshaw left the meeting at 7:17 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 December 20, 2021
- b) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 01/04/22" & Accept Monthly Reports
- c) Approve Annual Audit for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2021
- d) Approve Local Public Agency General Maintenance Estimate of Maintenance Cost for 2022 MFT
- e) Approve Maintenance Engineering to be Performed by Consulting Engineer for 2022 MFT
- f) Approve Resolution for Maintenance of Streets & Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for 2022 MFT

**Lambert MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ervin SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Acker, Davis, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, & Trimble; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Dodds.**

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

## **7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER RAISING MUSIC & AMUSEMENT DEVICE FEES**

Council Member, Ervin reported the city now charges Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) for the first two (2) machines and then Ten Dollars (\$10) for each machine after that. Ervin stated the state made it where each municipality can charge up to Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) per machine. Ervin noted he feels like this is the time to raise our rates. Ervin said, no matter what, the city is not going to make much money on them anyway. Council Member, Susan Acker stated she does not think that the city should go all the way up to Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250). Mayor Klitz appointed Ervin, Barry Rebman, and Acker to look into this and see what they think is feasible. **No action was taken at this time.**

## **8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER RED GRANT APPLICATION**

Economic Development Committee Chair, Acker reported Boehm's Garden Center has applied for a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) RED Grant. Acker noted, at first, she did not think they were eligible but after looking at the rules, they are. Acker stated there is Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) in the appropriations for these grants and no one else has applied. Acker said Boehm's started this project last year but they cannot find contractors to do the work. Acker noted the reason the committee thought the city should go ahead and approve this grant is once they do get a contractor, they will want to continue to move on.

**Acker MOVED TO APPROVE A RED GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) TO BOEHM'S GARDEN CENTER. Rebman SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Davis, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Dodds.**

## **9. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

Council Member, Barry Rebman asked if the city was looking at putting handicapped spots by Clark's Autobody. Superintendent of Operations, Nathan Campbell said he does not have any information on that but they did put up *No Parking* signs on East Jefferson Street. Campbell stated he is not sure anything ever got decided on the handicapped spot because it would be on Clark's property and it is gravel and would need to be concrete. Street Committee Chairman, Mike Ryan said it was his understanding that the handicap spot would be on the corner so no cars would be parked there.

Rebman also asked how the city was going to handle COVID positive employees as far as using sick days, etc. Ervin stated there is no longer a law stating the city has to pay an employee and he feels this should be treated no different than if they got the flu. Rebman agreed and thought the employee should have to use their sick days. Acker wondered if an employee tests positive, should they have to be cleared by the health department or doctor to return to work. Ervin stated he just does not see how the city can keep paying the employees for being off, and Ryan agreed that sick time should be used. Ervin noted

COVID is a little more severe but it is still a sickness. Davis said if the city pays employees to be off sick, then he feels it will be taken advantage of and this way maybe they will be a little more careful.

**Consensus was to make COVID positive employees use their sick time in order to be paid while off.**

Police Committee Member, Jeff Ervin reported Chief Wright said the new police car should be ready this Friday.

**10. ADJOURN**

**Lambert MOVED TO ADJOURN. Ervin SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Davis; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Dodds. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:29 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Minutes Approved