

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

Others present included: Stacey Briney, City Clerk; Nathan Campbell, Superintendent of Operations; David Haney of *The Rushville Times*; Schuyler Isley, Economic Development Director; and Anthony Miller of Hutchison Engineering.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Carson Klitz.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Economic Development Director, Schuyler Isley reported grad assistant, Sidney DeWeese, started today and they have started working out of the old city hall. Isley stated she was notified that they have been awarded the Eighty-Nine Thousand Dollar (\$89,000) grant for the updates to the building and those will start late fall. Isley thanked the council for all of their support.

Anthony Miller of Hutchison Engineering introduced himself and said he has been working on the ITEP grant for West LaFayette Street, from Jackson Street to Monroe Street, with Superintendent of Operations, Nathan Campbell. Miller noted this project was designed in 2008 or 2009 and has just been sitting on the shelf. Miller said he has spoken with City Clerk, Stacey Briney about some action items that are needed for the grant as well. Miller presented a cost estimate for the project. *Said cost estimate is attached and a part of these minutes.* A discussion followed.

Council Member, Jeff Ervin asked when the grant application was due, and Miller stated the application is due by September 30th. Miller noted this is an 80/20 grant. Miller reported that at the time of the original plans, the intersection was going to be concrete because there were not enough bricks to put it all back, but since then, the city has about one hundred (100) pallets of bricks from the other section of West LaFayette Street.

Council Member, Mike Ryan arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Klitz questioned what the worse case scenario would be in regards to the cost to the city, and Miller stated the most the city would have to pay would be Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$339,985). Miller said once the application is scored, they can guarantee twenty five percent (25%) of the applicants could get extra funding.

Council Member, Susan Acker asked if Miller had feasible time to go ahead with the grant funding, and Miller said he has already started, so yes, he would have time to get it submitted by September 30th. **Consensus of the council was to proceed with the plans with the intersection being brick.**

Miller reported the council will have to pass a resolution and get letters of support from the representatives, congressman, special interest groups, economic development, major businesses, etc. Miller noted eight to ten (8-10) letters would be great. Miller stated after the resolution is passed at the next council meeting, he will try to get the package ready to have signatures from the Mayor and Clerk hopefully by September 23rd. Ervin said he will get the letters of support and have them ready by the time Miller brings the items in to be signed.

4. 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 15, 2022
- b. Approve the Minutes of the Sidewalk & Lighting Committee held August 24, 2022; Combined Water & Sewer Committee Meeting held August 26, 2022; Economic Development Committee held August 30, 2022; & Grievance & Personnel Committee Meeting held August 31, 2022

- c. Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 09/06/22" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d. Reserve Central Park on Friday, September 16, 2022, for the HUB's Family Art Day
- e. Approve Allowing The HUB to Hold Scarecrow Contest around Central Park
- f. Approve Special Event License for Hamilton's Catering on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at the Phoenix Opera House for a Wedding Reception
- g. Approve Engagement Letter with Gray-Hunter-Stenn to Conduct Fiscal Year Audit Ending April 30, 2022
- h. Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1134, Resolution Regarding the Release of Executive Session Minutes
- i. Approve Suspending the Rules RE: Ordinance No. 1352, An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Owned by the City of Rushville, Illinois
- j. Pass & Adopt Ordinance No. 1352, An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Owned by the City of Rushville

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

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

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

6. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING NEW MOWER FOR THE CEMETERY

Cemetery Committee Chairman, Bob Lambert reported Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent had gotten two (2) bids for a new mower. Lambert stated the one bid from Herter's had a mower for the cemetery and a mower for the street department all added together. Acker said she feels that when we ask for bids, we should ask for equal bids. Lambert noted when the Herter's bid is broken down, Birkey's bid is still lower. Aker stressed that she does not like these two (2) bids, so she will not be voting for it. Campbell said he told Vincent to let him know when he was going to get bids for a mower because he needed a new one too and that is why Herter's put both mowers together but Birkey's made two (2) separate ones. A discussion followed.

Mayor Klitz reported that the golf course uses Skag mowers and have for a long time. Mayor Klitz noted they must be good mowers because the golf course's have a lot of hours on them so maybe that is something Vincent should look into as well. **Clerk Briney was directed to place this item on the next council agenda.**

7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING A RED GRANT TO EAST SIDE LAUNDRY

Economic Development Committee Chair, Susan Acker reported the committee had met to discuss a RED grant application from East Side Laundry. Acker noted they had submitted a bid for the parking lot and a list of items that they need to do.

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

8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER HIRING A JANITOR FOR CITY HALL

Grievance & Personnel Committee Member, Susan Acker reported the committee had met and interviewed eight (8) very good candidates for the janitor position. Acker noted they got it down to two (2) that had the most experience so they decided to discuss it with Clerk Briney since she would be the one to have to work closely with that person. Clerk Briney said she had not heard back from IMRF regarding the one applicant and called one of the employers that the other candidate worked for and they had nothing but good to say about her.

Acker MOVED TO APPROVE HIRING NORA ALLEN AS JANITOR FOR CITY HALL AT A RATE OF EIGHTEEN DOLLARS (\$18) PER HOUR. Lambert SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Dodds, Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Acker, & Davis; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble.

Anthony Miller left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

9. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Council Member, Richard Davis reported he had been contacted by a member of the Tomlinson family regarding the land they were giving Schuy-Rush Park. Davis said there is one (1) family member that the rest are trying to buyout but that member heard there was going to be bulldozer work done and things have not been finalized yet. Davis noted the Tomlinson's wanted the city to keep them informed. Mayor Klitz stated he was under the impression that the land was given to us for the park to make six (6) additional spaces. Lambert said there has to be a roadway to get back there.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Barry Rebman reported the water system at the golf course is getting worse. Rebman stressed that it is a mess out there, but Greenskeeper, Andy Ebey is doing the best he can at getting the leaks fixed. Mayor Klitz said he is not sure what to do with the system. Ervin stated the irrigation system has a life expectancy of twenty-five (25) years and we are at that. Mayor Klitz noted he will have to meet with Ebey on this. Mayor Klitz said the golf course loses between Fifty Thousand and Sixty Thousand (\$50,000 - \$60,000) Dollars every year and then you add the pool to that.

Water & Sewer Committee Chairman, Jeff Ervin reported the committee met with Jamie Headen of Benton & Associates to try to come up with a plan for the sewer by Rogers Bakery. Ervin said when Headen gets something, he will bring it forward to the council.

Mayor Carson Klitz reported everyone got a copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Farmers Market. *Said letter is attached and a part of these minutes.* Mayor Klitz broke the letter down as follows:

- 1st paragraph – the letter said that the Chamber had one (1) goal and that was to get the Farmers Market back with new vendors, but they did not do anything to get any new vendors
- 2nd paragraph – Mayor Klitz stated that he never talked to any vendor about anything
- 3rd paragraph – the council has never delegated the Chamber to govern what goes on on the square; the Chamber might presume they have that authority, they do not, but the city does.
- 4th paragraph – Mayor Klitz said he did call Amanda Higgins and he told her that things would go back to the way they were but he did not yell, scream, or berate her in any way

Mayor Klitz stated Higgins was on the Scripps Park Board and he had asked her to not resign after one of the meetings but she brought a letter of resignation to his house. Mayor Klitz noted after that, she made it clear that she wanted back on, but he would not do it so he is assuming that is where all of this is coming from. Mayor Klitz said neither Scott Stoll or Lacey Cunningham came to him to get his side of what happened. Mayor Klitz stated this letter has made him out to be evil.

Mayor Klitz read his version of what happened. Mayor Klitz stressed that as of tonight, he is not going to comment anymore on this matter and it is just a done deal. Mayor Klitz informed the council that if they did not agree with him, he will apologize to the council, but not to Higgins.

10. ADJOURN

Ervin MOVED TO ADJOURN. Dodds SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Ervin, Lambert, Rebman, Ryan, Acker, Davis, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 1 ABSENT – Trimble. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:44 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Stacey L. Briney, City Clerk/CMC

Date Minutes Approved