

January 11, 2007

The Russell Springs City Commission held their regular monthly meeting this date at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Amy Wooldridge, Brenda Wooldridge, Josh Wooldridge, Billy Wooldridge, Jeanne Hudson, Denver Wilson, Claradon Wilson, David Davenport, Wade Daffron, Sherry Daniel, Joey Hoover, Janice Blair, Jacky Burton, Jeremy Coffey, Terry Russell, Joe Irvin, Wanda Burton, Betty Wheat, Eric Selby, Matthew DeHart, Timmy Hudson, Richard Wooldridge, Wayne Gaskins, Ray Barrett, Don Byrom, Hollis DeHart and Wendy Burton.

1. Mayor Hollis DeHart called the meeting to order.
2. **Wayne Gaskins made the motion to accept the minutes of January 4, 2007 as written. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
3. Mayor DeHart stated that the statements to be paid along with invoices were prepared for each Commissioner to see. In the future months, a vendor sheet will be prepared and placed on top of bills with a signature for approval by the department head and Commissioner to pay these bills. **Wayne Gaskins made the motion to pay the bills. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
4. Mayor DeHart presented a plaque to former Mayor Eric Selby for his years of service and dedication to the City from 2001 through 2006.
5. Resolution 2007-01 regarding change of government from Mayor/Commissioner to Mayor/Council was given to each Commissioner. Mayor DeHart stated do we truly believe in democracy or do we just give it lip service? Do we believe in We The People or We The Politician? Do we believe in the people who put us here to do a job or do we reject them with a show of power and disregard? Mayor DeHart stated he ran on the idea to return to Mayor/Council form of government. We must also accept the notion of people who do not want to return to Mayor/Council. They also must have a voice. Their desires must be addressed. That is what democracy is all about. The people will decide. Kentucky Municipal Statutorial Law provides that a city may change plan of government if approved by residents of city pursuant to the procedures outlined for public question under KRS 83A.120. Those procedures provide two methods of change. (1) Commission or Council may cause question to be placed on ballot by a simple majority vote or (2) a petition may be circulated and a number of names equal to 20% of the voters of the last Presidential election would be required to place question on ballot. With all that said, we should all be willing to live with the decision of the people. **The Commission heard Resolution 2007-01 regarding a change in the form of government from Mayor/Commission to Mayor/Council.** Mayor DeHart asked Matthew DeHart for an explanation of full text. Matthew DeHart explained that a yes vote would be to make a change. This process is a two year process and that the resolution would be to put the question before the public. **Mayor DeHart made the motion**

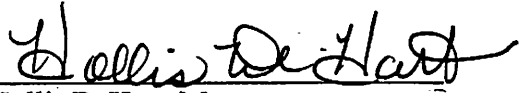
to accept Resolution 2007-01. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Discussion regarding Mayor/Council form of government. Ray Barrett asked why Mayor/Council form of government would be better. Mayor DeHart stated there seems to be a power vacuum where each Commissioner has a regular job; the ladies in City Hall are put on the spot to make decisions; budget crunch times; Commissioners butt heads; a strong Commissioner will get what they want whereas a weaker Commissioner will get left behind. Each Commissioner primarily concerned with their area of the City; no unity; causes an uproar. Sherry Daniel asked does the KRS state that each Commissioner have a department? Mayor DeHart stated that there are statutory requirements placed on each Commissioner but sees no reason that everyone can't work together. The City of Russell Springs has had long and abiding problems with each Commissioner taking care of their department and not the City as a whole. Sherry Daniel asked what the cost to the City was for placing question on the ballot. The City cannot pay for this, not legal. Mayor DeHart stated that the initial costs would be more to change the form of government, but would save money in the future. He stated that Russell Springs was an all Kentucky City years ago; and that former Mayor Bocky Bottoms was very dedicated to the City. Sherry Daniel stated she wants what is best for the City. Ray Barrett stated that since 1997 under this form of government the City has improved. With change of government two additional members would need to be added, also would the Mayor asked for more money to be full-time. Progress is occurring with \$100,000 Park Grant, \$300,000 water project and \$2.5 million dollar sewer project. Vast majority of Kentucky cities are Mayor/Council. If unnecessary raises are given to the Commission/Council it would be the responsibility of the governing body. Richard Wooldridge stated pros and cons; the people of the City would vote the type of government. Richard Wooldridge stated that through his campaign most people wanted to change to Mayor/Council form of government. Sherry Daniel stated that since it would be a two year process; could the City work together to make the Commission form of government better. Ray Barrett stated that every Commissioner had a right to be concerned with every department not just their own. Richard Wooldridge stated that all departments and Commissioners are trying to work together. Mayor DeHart commented on the purchase of filing cabinets. Previous cabinets that had been purchased were fire proof and approximately \$2,000. Mayor DeHart authorized the purchase of three filing cabinets for \$150 to \$200 each and to save approximately \$5,000. Mayor DeHart stated that if he made four or five people at the business that he co-owns all bosses, this business would not last long. Someone has to be in charge to make decisions. Claradon Wilson asked who would make the final decision in Mayor/Council. Mayor DeHart informed the Commission that the Mayor makes the final decision, but the Council can vote decisions down. Ray Barrett stated if it isn't broke don't fix it. Mayor DeHart asked do we let the people decide.

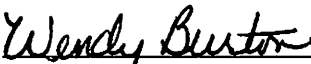
Claradon Wilson asked why return to Mayor/Council? Mayor DeHart asked why the vast majority of Cities were Mayor/Council. If Mayor/Council is so bad, then why do so many cities stay with it? Mayor/Commission is so hard to keep going right. **Roll call vote with Timmy Hudson-nay; Richard Wooldridge-aye; Wayne Gaskins-nay; Ray Barrett-nay; Hollis DeHart-aye. Motion declined 3-2.** Wayne Gaskins stated he and Hollis DeHart are best of friends. He also stated that two years ago, he stood up and voted no for a lot of things going on. Ray Barrett was here, some around this table were here; honestly don't know if I hadn't stood up and said no and objected to some things that were going on if it would have ever been stopped. You never know that stuff. There was stuff going on that wasn't right and the Court System bared that out. So I think and I have talked to Sherry's dad Bocky many times, he worked hard to get the Mayor/Commission form of government. I just don't know if there had; it had been Mayor/Council form of government what would have happened. This is one of the most honest men I know. I am not saying anything about him. If he could be the Mayor for as long as I wanted to be around here, I would say yes in a minute. But me and him are not going to be here forever. He's honest and I know he is honest; would believe anything the man tells me. I can't help but believe some of the stuff of the discoveries from what happened before it went to the Commission; lot of stuff went on that wasn't right. Money wasted; stuff done that was illegal; that's no secret; everybody knows that. That's my only reason to vote no. I think, I know that if I hadn't three years ago stood up and said no, this is not right, we can't do it this way. The Council said to look into it and there was an investigation held and everybody knows what happened. The City would have been out a whole lot of money. That's my only reason to vote no. Nothing against Hollis DeHart or nobody at this table. But the people elected me to vote the way I see fit and I vote my heart. If this doesn't work out, I know it will with the people around this table, I will be the first to put it on the ballot two years from now. I think it is to soon, not looked enough into it. Mayor DeHart stated that in his opinion a petition will be started to change the form of government.

6. Mayor DeHart informed the Commission that the City received a refund of \$460 from our Worker's Comp Audit.
7. The Senior Citizens Center final plumbing inspection was today with Tuesday the day to receive the Certificate of Occupancy. Wayne Gaskins suggested he and the Mayor have lunch with the Senior Citizens.
8. Timmy Hudson informed the Commission he met with the Fire Department; equipment good; training up to date, zoning problems being fixed. Richard Wooldridge working with the ladies in office to correct work order problems, collections and cut-off issues. **Ray Barrett made the motion to change TJ Brumley road sign to Erik Lane. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Ray Barrett informed the Commission that ground has been broke for a \$25,000 skate

park at the City Park with a completion date of possibly May 1. Also new playground equipment will be added. Wayne Gaskins informed the Commission that one officer was now in the Academy, be complete in April, the Police Department has two new cruisers, possibly will sell the oldest cruisers.

9. City Clerk Burton informed the Commission of the new retirement rates effective July 1, 2007 for the City. CERS nonhazardous employee rate will be 16.17 % from 13.19% and CERS hazardous employee rate will be 33.87% from 28.21%.
10. Mayor DeHart informed the Commission that he had excellent cooperation in the office, that the ladies do a good job. This City will go forward.
11. **Ray Barrett made the motion to adjourn. Wayne Gaskins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**


Hollis DeHart, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Wendy Burton, City Clerk