January 13, 2011

The Russell Springs City Council held their regular monthly meeting this date at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. In attendance were Jeanne Hudson, Claradon Wilson, Joey Hoover, Elaina Andrews, Kim Graham, Jeramy Coffey, Richard Roy, Joe Irvin, Chris Ramsey, Timmy Hudson, Eddie Thomas, Eric Selby, David Blakey, Lisa Mann, Ricky Barnes, Athena Cooper, Matthew DeHart, Hollis DeHart and Wendy Burton.

- 1. Mayor Hollis DeHart called the meeting to order.
- 2. Lisa Mann made the motion to accept the minutes of December 9 and December 28. David Blakey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 3. Ricky Barnes made the motion to pay the bills. Timmy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 4. KLC City Officials Academy January 26-28 in Lexington. Eddie Thomas stated he was planning on attending this meeting. Clerk will make reservations on Friday for all attendees.
- 5. Mayor DeHart introduced Mr. Chris Ramsey-Deputy Judge Assistant to County Judge Executive Gary Robertson.
- 6. Timmy Hudson made the motion to appoint Mayor Hollis DeHart to serve another 3 years on the Natural Gas Board. David Blakey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 7. Eric Selby made the motion to sell all surplus vehicles. David Blakey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 8. Ricky Barnes made the motion to nominate Eric Selby as Mayor Pro-Temp. Lisa Mann made the motion that nominations cease. David Blakey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. For the record of Eric Selby as Mayor Pro-Temp say aye. All ayes.
- 9. A rough ditch line and hillside along the old Co-op building property needs to be squared up and deeded to Terry Stephens for maintenance.
 David Blakey made the motion to deed the ditch line and hillside to Terry Stephens. Ricky Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 10. Mayor DeHart informed the Council that he would like to have permission to apply for a Land and Water grant to build a new picnic area and new bathrooms in the circle at the City Park. Lisa Mann made the motion to give Mayor DeHart permission to apply for this grant. Timmy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- 11. Jeramy Coffey and Mayor DeHart met with American Engineers Inc. located in Glasgow, Ky. earlier this week for the \$80,000 Maple Street Sidewalk project. Jeramy Coffey stated the State requires no engineer, but to obtain a State permit it has to be done by a consultant: a catch 22. American Engineers Inc will cost \$10,000 with \$2,000 prior to grant being signed. Mayor DeHart stated if the money is not released, the City has no obligation to pay for engineers. Timmy Hudson made the motion to give the Mayor permission to sign agreements with American Engineers Inc. David Blakey seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

- 12. Mayor DeHart informed the Council he had been contacted by Temple Jewett head attorney with the Kentucky League of Cities and asked to serve on the Insurance Board at KLC. Mayor DeHart will be absent four days a year with no expense to the City.
- 13. Mayor DeHart stated the Star Theatre was raising funds for this upcoming year. Different levels of pricing; will discuss more at next month's meeting.
- 14. Mayor DeHart addressed the Council and the Citizens on the condition of the City. Presently the City is in reasonably good financial condition. The City operates on taxation which takes care of roads, police, fire, salaries, insurance and retirement. The City receives approximately \$25,000 each year from Road Aid Funds. Water and Sewer money is used to pay bonds. loans and to keep a certain amount set aside for an emergency in the Water and Sewer Department. This money is never transferred to the General Fund. The City currently has eight certified police officers and each volunteer firefighter is given a \$600 per year stipend. Unemployment is close to 10% and with the loss of jobs, comes the loss of revenue for the City. Retirement withholdings for the City will increase for a regular employee to 23.51% by 2015 and a hazardous employee to 46.05%. So what is the answer??? Options are limited; need to be prepared when an employee retires, quits or is let go they are not replaced with personnel outside, only inside. Reduce budgets by 5-8%; retain police cars and all utility vehicles for a longer period of time. So it is imperative to start making some modifications now, before the wolf is at the door.
- 15. David Blakey made the motion to adjourn. Timmy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Hollis DeHart, Mayor

Wendy Barton, City Clerk