

April 28, 2008

The Russell Springs City Commission held a special called meeting this date at City Hall at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Nathalie Rosado, Derek Aaron, Sherry Daniel, Claradon Wilson, Joe Irvin, Timmy Hudson, Richard Wooldridge, Matthew DeHart, Wayne Gaskins, Ray Barrett, Hollis DeHart and Wendy Burton.

1. Mayor Hollis DeHart called the meeting to order.
2. **Richard Wooldridge made the motion to accept the April 10 minutes. Wayne Gaskins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
3. **Mayor DeHart made the following PERSONNEL STATEMENT:**
There is an old saying that generally rings true, "It is what it is". Over the last two or three weeks, I have spent about two thirds of my time dealing with this situation of an AI Citation that was given to one of the Commissioners. The Law, in my opinion and the opinion of the attorney, is quiet clear in this situation and regardless of what we might think the law is the law. This issue does not rise to a point of action by the Commission. We have an Ethics Committee duly appointed and sitting and I have a Deep Respect for Them. But they also must comply with the Law and the Regulations attached thereto. There are only certain issues, according to Law, that the Ethics Committee can address. To Wit: Conflicts of interest, This has to do with City Contracts; Gifts, this has to do with an elected official taking gifts from Contractors, etc.; use of City Equipment or Personnel; Financial Disclosure; every elected position must file a disclosure of their investments; and Nepotism, this means when an elected official uses his/her office to influence others to hire his/her family members. Generally speaking infractions contained in these issues are matters the Ethics Committee may investigate. If they find reason to believe additional steps need to be taken they issue their opinion to the Sitting Commissioners or Councilmen. The Commissioners or Councilmen may then choose to go forward or do nothing. If the Ethics Committee advises to exclude some member of the body from the Commission, it takes a unanimous vote. Simply put the Ethics Committee has no authority to take action in this particular case. Nowhere in the code does it address such things as Alcohol Intoxication. "It is what it is". I was/am embarrassed by the incident and I venture to say, so was the Commissioner. From a perspective of the Law, the man plead guilty and paid a find of \$174.00. I do not condone such activity because I believe we are held to a higher standard. It was an error, a Mistake. It was something most of us wish had not happened, but it is what it is. Does the Commission have any thing they want to say? **Do I hear any motion on the issue? Therefore, the issue is Dead.** It is all in the Open, No Cover-up. As far as I am concerned the issue rests with the voters and I intend to spend no more time defending or prosecuting a moot issue.
4. Beginning January 2009 The Russell Springs City Commission will cease to exist and will be replaced by a Mayor/Council system of Government.

Numerous changes in duties and responsibilities for those incoming councilmen. The main changes will be a drastic reduction in the day to day operations of the City by Commissioners. Unlike Commissioners, Councilmen will have no day to day responsibilities. The day to day operations of the City will become the responsibility of the Mayor and his/her staff. Primary responsibilities of the Councilmen are: Introducing and passing ordinances, approving the budget, creating and/or abolishing positions, establishing policies. KRS 83A.130 goes into greater detail on responsibilities. The cost of financing a Commission or Council is expensive at the very best. Since the responsibility of the Councilmen will be greatly reduced, it only stands to reason that salary should be commensurate with the responsibility. It currently costs approximately \$60,000 for salaries, health insurance and travel for four Commissioners. It is therefore necessary and fiscally responsible to reduce the pay and/or fringe benefits of the scheduled incoming council. Mayor DeHart recommended that Council positions receive a single health insurance policy and salary be reduced by 50% of the current \$6,000.00 to \$3,000. This would be a net savings of approximately \$20,000. Mayor DeHart stated: There are those who contend, even though the responsibilities and the duties of the Councilmen will be drastically reduced, the salary should not be cut. The people who run for a seat on the Council must understand the money they receive is to offset their expenses. A position on the Council is not a trade, nor craft, nor profession from which you earn a living. Hopefully, those who succeed in securing a seat on the Council are there because they want to see their City grow and they have a desire to serve their fellowman. They want to see more jobs available for young people and they want to see growth at a measured rate. They want industries that are good for this City and be proud of our accomplishments. To be able to do these things, we must demonstrate to the community that we are capable, dedicated and progressive and that we have a deep and abiding concern for our fellowman and our City. We must also demonstrate that taxpayer's monies are being spent wisely. To paraphrase a late president, "Ask not what your City can do for you, but what you can do for your City". I understand that this proposal will not sit well for some of us. However, it is appropriate under the changing circumstances and is fiscally responsible. **Mayor Dehart made the motion beginning January 1, 2009 that Councilmen be offered only single health insurance paid by the City. Motion died for lack of a second. Mayor DeHart made the motion to reduce the salary of incoming Councilmen by 50% to \$3,000 per year. Motion died for lack of a second.**

5. **Mayor DeHart made the motion to adjourn. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Hollis DeHart
Hollis DeHart, Mayor

ATTEST: Wendy Burton
Wendy Burton, City Clerk
