

July 10, 2008

The Russell Springs City Commission held their regular monthly meeting this date at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Jeanne Hudson, Claradon Wilson, Joey Hoover, Derek Aaron, Richard Roy, Jeramy Coffey, Tyler Wooldridge, Joe Irvin, Richard Wooldridge, Timmy Hudson, Wayne Gaskins, Ray Barrett, Matthew DeHart, Hollis DeHart and Wendy Burton.

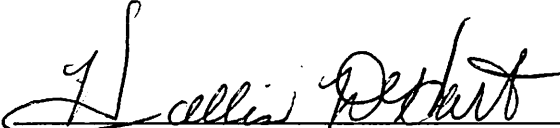
1. Mayor Hollis DeHart called the meeting to order.
2. **Timmy Hudson made the motion to accept the June 19 minutes as written. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
3. **Mayor Hollis DeHart made the motion to pay the bills. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
4. In a previous executive session for the purchasing of property, with no action taken then, Mayor DeHart had contacted the owners with an offer of \$25,000 and the property owners accepted offer. **Mayor DeHart made the motion to purchase property. Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
5. **Mayor DeHart made the motion to name street located between Sullivan Street and Pickett Avenue "Crystal Spring Lane". Richard Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0**
6. **Mayor DeHart made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board for property located at 11 Butler Street to be rezoned from R2 to C1. Timmy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
7. The City or the Industrial Development Authority failed to nominate Mr. Steve Branscum for another four (4) year term during December 2007. **Richard Wooldridge made the motion to appoint Mr. Steve Branscum immediately retroactively to that position. Ray Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
8. The Commission heard the 1st reading of Ordinance 2008-07 Occupational License Tax.
9. Ray Barrett informed the Commission Little League tournament was held this past weekend with approximately 3,000 people in attendance with wonderful comments on the City Park. Maintenance building project moving along, new tractor with rotary cutter has arrived.
10. Timmy Hudson stated Fire Department grant money had been received, supplies ordered, responded to one structure fire this month.
11. Richard Wooldridge in a prepared statement: To the citizens of Russell Springs, As your water and sewer commissioner we all know by now that there is little or anything that we can do about fuel prices, Since day one, I have been strongly opposed to driving city vehicles home. However with that being said, some of you lately have expressed to me to look into this. I must repeat the facts as they are. Most people think that water and sewer is tax funded. That simply is untrue. We operate only on revenue we take in,

no more no less. Not one penny of your city taxes is for these services. The water and sewer has finished the last several years with an acceptable level of surplus. Mayor DeHart asked the departments to cut fuel costs by 20% if feasible. With proper management, consolidation of services, route changes and excellent supervision by our Public Works Director Terry Russell cuts in the last month alone, miles driven from 12, 859 to 8,333 miles a difference of 4,466 at an estimated savings of \$1,694.80 for fuel alone. I personally cannot expect much more than that. With upgraded maintenance on vehicles recently and the schedule changes, it only costs the department \$17.20 on average to drive all of them home daily. Keep in mind; I'm only speaking about the water and sewer department only. I take, nor want any credit for this improvement. This was accomplished as a team effort and I credit all employees for their cooperation and willingness to save costs in such hard and trying times. We as citizens will weather this economic storm together to keep high standards and cut costs at the same time.

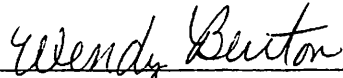
12. Mayor DeHart in a prepared statement: I would like to talk to you a few minutes about the present economic situation. As we all know transportation is the generator of economic growth in this country. 95% of all we eat, wear or use in any way comes into our lives as a result of transportation. Our city employees have to have transportation to do their assigned jobs. About two months ago, I asked the department heads to reduce their gas consumption by at least 20%. In the interim gas and diesel prices continued to climb and quiet honestly I do not believe the price increases are over. I expect them to continue to rise. Experts are predicting gas prices to hit \$7.00 per gallon. Now everyone is really trying to save on gas consumption. For example, the water and sewer department has cut their consumption by 32%. The police department is working hard to cut their consumption, as are the other areas. In an effort to continue to curb expenses, we should no longer purchase Crown Victoria police cars. The simple reason is that they consume too much fuel. Chief Irvin and I have looked at Malibus, Prius, Impalas and Nissans. We have budgeted to buy two (2) vehicles this year to replace the old Crown Vics. Only the Impala has a police package however, it costs approximately \$1,000-\$1,500 over the Nissan. The per-mile gas usage rating for both the Impala and the Nissan are approximately the same coming in at 22-31 MPG. However, there are real questions about the mileage issue when you check with other police departments. There appears little doubt the Nissan will get the estimated MPG. That should more than double the present mileage we get from the Crown Vic. The Nissan is roomy, has great panoramic perspective, has good trunk space and has excellent surge out of the hole. It actually seemed better than any other automobile we tested. All that being said, we must continue to watch fuel prices. I hope it does not become necessary to take more drastic steps, but be assured, if we determine the cost is getting prohibitive, we will take steps to help alleviate the problem. There is one more issue I would like to address. For

years now, this city has operated as though it were three or four different cities with each department feeling as though it stood alone. That is the very nature of a commission type government. Some departments generate funds through fees and monthly charges for products and services. Others generate funds through like methods but because of the very nature of the business they still lose a considerable amount of money each year. Other departments are an absolute 100% loss each year as far as finances are concerned. That is not their fault. It is the very nature of what they do. For example, the police department is very expensive and they bring no finances to the table. The Park, while not near as expensive as the police department is also expensive and cannot sustain itself from a financial perspective. The general government or administrative arm of the city gets the finances directly from the citizens through fees, taxation and licenses. Water and sewer get its funds from the sale of water and sewer services. When everything is said and done the assets must be combined and a general budget prepared. Now, let me hasten to add this: I have never worked with a finer group of people than the employees of Russell Springs, Government. This is absolutely not a criticism of them. The City of Russell Springs is extremely fortunate to have such people. Nor is it a criticism of the Commissioners. While we may differ on some issues, it has not been personal. The Commission has been extremely supportive and I thank each of them for that. The problem has been the form of government. As you know we will enter into a new form of government in just a few months. It is going to take some adjustment on the way things are now being done and the way we look at how the city will be run in the future. We will be talking a lot more about that in the very near future.

13. **Wayne Gaskins made the motion to adjourn. Timmy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**



Hollis DeHart, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Wendy Burton, City Clerk