

RUSSELL SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 08, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The Russell Springs City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 08, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Room at Russell Springs City Hall. Those in attendance were Mayor Eddie Thomas, Council Members Tom Holt, Sherry Daniel, Larry Skaggs, Timmy Hudson, Ricky Barnes and David Blakey, Police Chief Tim Pierce, Economic Development Director Jeramy Coffey, Code Enforcement Officer Brian Stephens, and City Clerk Christopher Ramsey

Opening prayer was led by Officer Bruce Blevins

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Skaggs

WELCOME: Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Christopher Ramsey performed the roll call. Council Members in attendance, Mr. Holt, Mr. Blakey, Ms. Daniel, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Skaggs.

MINUTES: Mayor Thomas presented the minutes from the regular meeting on March 11th. **Councilman Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Blakey seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

CASH DISBURSEMENTS & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Mayor Thomas submitted cash disbursements and financial statements for February 2021 to be approved. **Councilman Holt made a motion to accept the cash disbursements and financial statements with Councilwoman Daniel seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

RECOGNITION OF MELISSA TAYLOR (RETIREMENT): Mayor Thomas thanked Mrs. Taylor for her 18 years of service on the Russell Springs Police Department. Mrs. Taylor served in several different capacities before retiring at the end of March. Mrs. Taylor served as a patrol officer, sergeant, assistant police chief and filled in as interim police chief until Chief Pierce was appointed. Mayor Thomas and the Russell Springs City Council wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS: Mayor Thomas announced that the Russell Springs Police Department has two new officers; Mr. Bryan Shepard and Mr. Bruce Blevins. Both officers thanked the Mayor and Council for the warm welcome.

RUSSELL COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT: Mayor Thomas nominated Mr. Jeramy Coffey to serve a four-year term on the RCIDA Board. His term will expire on March 11th, 2025. **Councilwoman Daniel made the motion to accept the nomination of Jeramy Coffey to a four-year term on the Russell County Industrial Development Board with Councilman Blakey seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

KIA ANNOUNCEMENT: Clerk Ramsey announced the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) has approved a sewer loan project in the amount of \$682,000 for KY 80 Gravity Sewer Rehab project. The City of Russell Springs plans to rehabilitate existing sanitary sewer lines to reduce the infiltration and inflow in portions of the sewer system along KY 80, Butler Drive, and Roy Drive, including manhole rehabs, point repairs, sewer line repairs and reconnection of lateral lines. Slip line approximately 5,900 LF of 8" VCP and reconnect 50 existing customers. The City of Russell Springs has approved for a 50% debit forgiveness on this project, resulting in the final amount of the loan at \$341,000 with a twenty-year term at .25%.

VIDEO OF WATERLINE: Mayor Thomas showed a video of the waterline location on the drag strip property.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX ANNOUNCEMENT: It was announced that a list of delinquent property taxes will be published in the paper for the next three weeks. After the three-week timeframe, a lien will be filed on any remaining properties that have not paid their 2020 Property Taxes.

POLICE CHIEF PIERCE UPDATE: Chief Pierce informed the council that he has changed the policy on the markings of the police vehicles. The RSPD will no longer use ghost stripping on any of the police vehicles. Chief Pierce thanked Brian Stephens in assisting with the design and lettering of the first vehicle. By doing the design and lettering in house it is estimated the City is saving between \$500 - \$800 per vehicle. The reason for the policy change is Chief Pierce wants more police visibility in the community.

Several councilmembers thanked Chief Pierce for making that change and Mr. Stephens for helping to make those changes.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Reminder that the Hollis DeHart Community Center is now open to be rented.

The City has hired a company to start working on sidewalk repairs throughout the city. Several of our sidewalks are not ADA compliant and it was one of the write ups received from the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) insurance inspection. Hopefully that project will be completed by the end of July.

Trash in the City Limits: The Police will be issuing citations for littering. It has become a major problem in the city and it will be addressed.

Mayor Thomas let the council know that he and Mr. Ramsey has started working on the 2021-2022 budget. Mr. Ramsey will be setting up a time to go over the budget with everyone hopefully by mid-May with a first reading before June 1st.

Cares Act Stimulus monies application has been started. If received, it will be the third round of monies awarded to the city.

FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION: Clerk Ramsey read the proclamation and was signed by Mayor Thomas.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS & UPDATES:

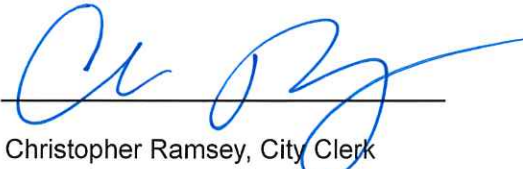
Councilwoman Daniel thanked the Bartrug Family for doing trash pick-up.

Councilman Blakey asked about education scholarships. Mr. Coffey responded that those scholarships are usually awarded either at the May or June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Councilman Blakey seconding. All was in favor.

Signed:  _____

Eddie Thomas, Mayor

Attest:  _____
Christopher Ramsey, City Clerk