

RUSSELL SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

The Russell Springs City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Room at Russell Springs City Hall. Those in attendance were Mayor Eddie Thomas; Council Members: Sherry Daniel, Timmy Hudson, Gary Frost, Lance Huckaby, and Cody Wilson; Police Chief Bryan Shepard, Economic Development Director Jeramy Coffey, City Attorney David F. Smith, and City Clerk Christopher Ramsey.

The opening prayer was led by Councilman Timmy Hudson

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Bryan Shepard

**WELCOME:** Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mayor Thomas recognized and wished Planning & Zoning Chairwoman Lou Ann Flanagan a happy birthday.

**ROLL CALL:** City Clerk Christopher Ramsey performed the roll call. Present: Mr. Frost, Mr. Huckaby, Ms. Daniel, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Hudson. Absent: Mr. Barnes

**MINUTES:** Mayor Thomas presented the minutes from the previous meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> for approval. **Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, with Councilman Frost seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Mayor Thomas submitted cash disbursements and financial statements for June 2025 for approval. **Councilman Hudson made a motion to accept the cash disbursements and financial statements, with Councilman Huckaby seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**ANCHOR AWARD PRESENTATION:** Mayor Thomas presented former Mayor Joel S. Wilford with the "Russell Springs Anchor" award for his leadership and contributions, particularly in initiating and funding the City Park. Mr. Wilford expressed appreciation and reflected on his time in office.

**RUSSELL COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE:** Beth Foster reported that since March 2023, the League has spayed/neutered 801 animals and vaccinated them. The City's contribution will be used to assist residents within city limits who cannot afford reduced clinic costs.

**SBA DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM:** James Accurso from the U.S. Small Business Administration discussed available disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses. The deadline to apply is August 23, 2025. Loans feature low fixed interest rates and a 12-month payment deferral.

**INTERLOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026:** Clerk Ramsey read the annual interlocal agreement with Russell County Fiscal Court for cooperation in road maintenance, repairs, paving, and creation within the city, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. This agreement allows the City to receive funding from the County Road Aid Fund. **Councilwoman Daniel made a motion to accept the Interlocal Road Agreement for the 25-26 fiscal year as presented, with Councilman Hudson seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-09 – UNCLAIMED PROPERTY:** Clerk Ramsey explained that the City found \$227.10 in unclaimed funds through the Kentucky State Treasurer's Office. Resolution authorizes Mayor Thomas and Clerk Ramsey to complete the claim process. **Councilman Frost made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-09 as presented, with Councilman Huckaby seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-10 – ADOPTION OF PLANNING AND ZONING GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

Planning & Zoning Chairwoman Lou Ann Flanagan presented the updated goals and objectives, a required part of the City's comprehensive plan under KRS. She outlined the process: citizen survey, public hearing, and board review. The plan covers community development, infrastructure, economic growth, environmental stewardship, and quality of life priorities. It is a living document that can be amended before the next required five-year review. **Councilwoman Daniel made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-10 as presented, with Councilman Wilson seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-11 – AUTHORIZATION OF KY WWATERS GRANT APPLICATION:** Clerk Ramsey read the resolution authorizing application for \$5.2 million in funding from the Kentucky Waters Program for water and wastewater projects, including a new water tower and 12-inch water line from Priddy's Loop to the hospital. **Councilman Frost made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-11 as presented, with Councilman Huckaby seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER 2025-06 – CREATION OF GRANT BANK ACCOUNTS (SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN BARNES):** Clerk Ramsey presented an order creating two new accounts at First National Bank for grant management:

- **CDBG Project 24-018** – for CDBG waterline replacement funds.
- **KY Grant Project 119017** – for Kentucky grant waterline replacement funds.

**Councilwoman Daniel made a motion to accept Municipal Order 2025-06 as presented, with Councilman Wilson seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER 2025-07 – AUTHORIZED BANKING SIGNATURES (SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN HUDSON):** Clerk Ramsey presented an order naming Mayor Thomas, Clerk Ramsey, and Deputy Clerk Suzanne Hunter as the only authorized signers on all City bank accounts and CDs at the listed financial institutions, requiring two signatures on checks. This order supersedes all prior authorizations. **Councilman Frost made a motion to accept Municipal Order 2025-07 as presented, with Councilman Huckaby seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council entered executive session at 6:37 p.m. under KRS 61.810(1)(b) to deliberate on the future acquisition or sale of real property where publicity would likely affect its value. **COUNCILMAN HUDSON MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER KRS 61.810(1)(b), with Councilman Wilson seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council returned to open session at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Thomas stated that no action was taken in executive session. **Councilman Huckaby made a motion to exit Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) with Councilwoman Daniel seconding. Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**NEGOTIATION OF REAL PROPERTY SALE:** Councilman Frost made a motion to authorize Mayor Eddie Thomas to negotiate the potential sale of real property owned by the City of Russell Springs, with a prospective buyer, in accordance with the parameters discussed in executive session, and to bring back the terms of any proposed agreement to the City Council for review and possible approval with Councilman Hudson seconding. **Motion Carried. The vote was unanimous.**

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-11 – 2025 AD VALOREM TAX RATES:** At Mayor Thomas' request, Clerk Ramsey presented the legal summary for Ordinance 2025-11. This is a first reading; no action taken.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Chief Shepard reported that for the month of July, the department made five DUI arrests and served twenty-eight warrants. Officers conducted thirty-seven traffic stops, which resulted in nineteen traffic charges, twenty of which were for speeding. The department investigated twenty-one traffic accidents, provided twenty motorist assists, and completed seventeen lockouts. In total, officers made fifty-seven arrests and responded to 599 calls for service. Council

members discussed the high volume of calls compared to the city's population.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:** Economic Development Director Jeramy Coffey reported that the City had received two requests for information from potential large water users. He and Utilities Supervisor Allen McQueary met to calculate potential water usage for these projects. Mr. Coffey noted that the CDBG and KY Waters grants passed earlier in the meeting will be important in supporting such opportunities if they continue to develop. He also updated the Council on ongoing grant work.

**MAYOR'S UPDATE:**

- Pool open weekends through Labor Day; splash pad closes at 5:00 p.m. daily.
- Encouraged checking the KY Treasurer's Unclaimed Property website.
- Announced plan to convert the lower ballfield to turf for special needs athletics ("Bankers' Field of Dreams") with bank donations; may return to Council if additional funds are required.
- Praised the Police Department for assistance to KSP in a recent drug case.
- Booster pump project on Owenstown Road nearing completion; will improve water service in Salem/Eli area but underscores need for \$5.2 million grant for city system upgrades.
- Next car show scheduled for Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Reported on training trip to the Department for Local Government; estimated \$8 million in grants secured.
- Kentucky League of Cities Conference set for September 23–26 in Owensboro; all council members invited to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Councilman Huckaby moved to adjourn the meeting, with Councilman Frost seconding. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Eddie Thomas, Mayor

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Christopher Ramsey, City Clerk