CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LIVE STREAMING OF THE RUSSELLVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC ARCHIVING OF MEETING RECORDINGS AND MINUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH KENTUCKY OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS LAWS

WHEREAS, transparency and public access to governmental proceedings are essential to a functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Russellville desires to enhance public participation, awareness, and trust in local government; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Russellville recognizes that public access to government proceedings is required under the Kentucky Open Meetings Act, KRS 61.800 to 61.850, which mandates that meetings of public agencies be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, The Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884, requires that public records, including meeting minutes, be available for inspection; and

WHEREAS, KRS 61.835 requires that minutes of all meetings be promptly recorded and made available for public inspection no later than the next meeting of the body; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Russellville desires to expand public access beyond minimum statutory requirements through modern technology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF RUSSELLVILLE, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to enhance transparency, accessibility, and public engagement by requiring live streaming and online archiving of open City Council meetings, recordings, and minutes.

SECTION 2. LIVE STREAMING OF MEETINGS

A. All regular and special-called open meetings of the Russellville City Council shall be video recorded and live streamed via the internet, so long as reasonably practicable.

B. The City shall provide the public access to any meeting that is live stream through either the City's official website or a publicly accessible third-party platform linked to the City's website.

C. Temporary technical failures shall not invalidate any meeting or action taken, nor shall a meeting be delayed due to technical difficulties.

D. No closed or executive session portion of a meeting shall be recorded or live streamed.

SECTION 3. VIDEO ARCHIVE REQUIREMENTS

A. Recordings of all live streamed meetings shall be posted online promptly and no later than immediately following the next regular meeting of the City Council.

B. The City shall retain recordings and allow them to be publicly accessible for a minimum of three (3) years.

SECTION 4. MEETING MINUTES – PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

A. The City Clerk shall prepare and maintain minutes of action taken at meetings in compliance with KRS 61.835, including a record of votes and actions taken.

B. Meeting minutes shall be promptly made open to public inspection, no later than immediately following the next meeting of the Council.

C. The City shall maintain an online archive of approved minutes for a minimum of ten (10) years.

SECTION 5. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS

The City shall maintain a clearly labeled "City Council Meetings" section on its official website that includes:

Links for live stream access
Archived video recordings
Archived Meeting agendas
Archived meeting minutes

SECTION 6. COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

A. Nothing in this Ordinance shall supersede or conflict with the Kentucky Open Meetings Act (KRS 61.800–61.850) or Kentucky Open Records Act (KRS 61.870–61.884).

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

A. The City shall implement this Ordinance beginning in January 2027.

B. The Mayor or designee shall be responsible for administrative implementation.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by Kentucky law.

FIRST READING conducted on October 20, 2026.

SECOND READING AND PASSAGE on November 3, 2026.

APPROVED:

By: _____
Mark Stratton, Mayor
City of Russellville

ATTEST:

By: _____
City Clerk
City of Russellville

At a meeting of the City Council of the City of Russellville, Kentucky, held on November 3, 2026, the foregoing ordinance was adopted, after full discussion, by the following vote:

AYES:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
Jimmy Davenport			
Pat Bell			
Sandra Kinser			
Larry Wilcutt			
Diane Walker			
Rich Ewald			