

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Regular Council Meeting  
Russiaville Town Hall  
November 27, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum  
Corbin King was also present.

Myrna Claar gave prayer. Greg Landrum led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved. Minutes from Board of Zoning meeting on November 17, 2023 were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said the few repairs that were approved have been started to be done here at the town hall.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and gave a written report. He also had a drawing of the new proposed wastewater plant, maintenance building and lab. This is a drawing as a starting point for the project for the council to see.

Marshal’s Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said the Durango is in the shop to be fixed. It is being covered by warranty. They are waiting on parts to get this done.

EMA Advisory – Nothing to report.

Fire Department – Nothing to report.

Health Department – Rick Homkes was present and gave the following report. The Howard County Emergency Development Network group conducted an Active Shooter tabletop exercise on 2 November. Some statistics for the training are:

76 participants were present (include exercise staff)  
35 Organizations/Agencies represented Including K-12 schools, higher education, churches, long term care homes, government organizations, school resource officers, etc.)

The exercise was very well received with many compliments to the volunteer planners from several community partners on how it was run and the positive impact it had in their planning and response efforts. An After-Action Report (AAR) has been written to help with specifics. It was disappointing, however, that no one (including myself) was able to attend from Russiaville.

Looking forward, there were requests for more training on emergency response for various scenarios, and the planning group will be working on that. In addition, Zach Rudolph the 911 director is going to record a Public Health Minute video that will be shared on the Health Department's video series.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said that Mr. Salsbery's attorney asks him from time to time about tearing down the old elevator at the end of Liberty. Pat Reel said Dave is working on this to see if anything can be done.

Corbin said Mr. Bean will have to deed the small piece of property to the library, as he owns it. Lori Seaman, from the library, was present, and said she would relay this to library attorney so they can move forward.

Corbin is still working on the South Union Street easements. Don Parvin asked when would this be done for bidding purposes. Corbin said he would keep working on it and hopefully be done by the end of the year.

Don Parvin also asked about the floodplain manager paper that we received a few months ago. Corbin said that anything for this would be handled through the county.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable had 4 permits. She-shed at 372 Yellowstone Dr., shed/fence at 455 N. Union St., house addition at 520 S. Union St.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Dustin Redding stated they had a meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> regarding a use variance request on N. Union St. (Lot # 1) for Anthony Daugherty. There are utility easements on the property. They voted in their meeting to approve the variance for the duplex to be build, pending the easement issue to be resolved. Whether he doesn't build on the towns easement or takes steps to vacate it. Mike Kanable asked about writing the permit. There was further discussion about the utility easement. Roger Waddell clarified by saying there is a utility easement on paper but doesn't look like there are any utilities in the easements next to the property lines. Don Parvin said but if it's a utility easement he would still have to go through the process of vacating the utility easement with a lawyer. Or don't build in the easement.

Pat Reel made a motion for Mike Kanable to write the permit for the new duplex on N. Union St. (Lot # 1) for Mr. Daugherty, subject to the easements (if he is not going to build where the easements are, or if he is going to go through the process to be able to vacate the easement to be able to build on it). Greg Landrum seconded. There was further discussion about vacating the easements. Don Parvin said from experience he knew that after you go through the process to vacate the easement, you will only be given ½ of the width of the easement. The other ½ will go to the adjacent property owner with no cost to them. Corbin King said he would need to get an attorney to do this process and do it correctly with the utilities, and the town to be able to build on it if he so chooses. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

TIF Board – Rick Homkes said they are still having issues with permits for signage on 26. They are also redoing the parcel numbers for the TIF District.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar was present and said she had taken the Cub Scouts group through the Interurban last Monday evening. They had 8 scouts and their parents. Myrna Claar thanked Jan for doing that, saying she did a great job with it.

Don Parvin said he is working with Dave to get Phase 2 of the Interurban started.

Park and Tree Board – Rick Homkes was present and said the Tree City USA application goes in this month. The IDNR will do final authorization on this after it is submitted.

They are still raising funds for the new playground and shelter. In October they brought in just over \$1,400.00. And \$5,000.00 in November, with a few other checks to come in to contribute to this. Overall, they have raised \$142,000.00 in grants, pledges, and donations for the project. They only have 4 more months to go. Their goal is \$250,000.00 to be able to apply for the grant for the other half of the money for the total project.

Pat Reel said the bubble panel was received and Craig and Paul will install it.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said all updates had been discussed already.

Don Parvin said all the lighting project that have been going on for so long here in town are finally completed and we can officially mark them off our list.

Don Parvin also said Pickett's Paving will be starting with road sealing this week.

Text My Gov – Megan Reel said this was brought up previously, but the company for this contacted her again saying they had a price change deal for this. This is text alert for people to sign up for. There were pros and cons discussed with this, including the cost and having not budgeted for this. In the end the cons outweighed the pros, and Pat Reel made a motion to not use Text My Gov at this time. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Holiday Schedule/Council Meetings – Megan Reel had the holiday schedule for the employees for 2024, and the council meeting dates for 2024 typed up for approval. These are the same holidays that the employees received with pay last year. The meetings are still the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 5 pm, unless it is a holiday and then it will defer to the next day. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the holiday schedule and the council meeting dates for 2024. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Salary Ordinance 2023-05 – This will be the salaries set for 2024 to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg Landrum made a motion to accept Salary Ordinance 2023-05 for 2024 salaries. Myrna Claar seconded. Pat Reel abstained. Don Parvin voted in favor, and the motion carried with Greg, Myrna, and Don voting for passage.

AmVets – Pat Reel said the AmVets are looking for a place to call home to have their meetings, and in need of a small storage area. Pat wants to know if the council would be ok with them using the Community Center for their meetings, and have the use of the office in the front to store their stuff. He knows it doesn't get used regularly, and it would benefit out Amvets Post greatly. There would be things in the office that not everyone (renters of the facility) should have access to. Therefore, the lock to that room would need to be changed, and keys given to the officers of AmVets that would be in charge. Don Parvin asked when they meet, to which Pat answered, the second Wednesday of each month. Greg Landrum made a motion to allow the AmVets to be able to use the Community Center and the small office in the front. Myrna Claar seconded. Don Parvin asked if we could visit this on a yearly basis to renew at the boards pleasure. Pat Reel abstained as he is a member of AmVets. Don Parvin voted in favor, and the motion carried with Greg, Myrna, and Don voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he would like to give the employees bonuses this year. He asked Megan when she would write these. Megan said sometime the first part of December. Myrna Claar made a motion to allow bonuses to be paid as stated in the salary ordinance for 2023. Greg Landrum seconded. Pat Reel abstained. Don Parvin voted in favor, and the motion carried with Myrna, Greg, and Don voting for passage.

Don Parvin would like people to think about replacing members on boards for 2024. Board of Zoning Appeals will need 2 members, in place of Roger Waddell and Kyle Parvin – Plan Commission will need 1 new member, in place of Kent Milburn – TIF Board will need 1 new member, in place of Roger Waddell.

Mike Kanable said that he had talked to Dave Britton about being on the Plan Commission and he said he would.

Pat Reel appointed Dave Britton, new Plan Commission member starting in 2024.

Boy Scouts Troop 519 had 4 members here to observe the meeting. Council thanked them for coming and listening.

Greg Landrum said he had met with Rice Tree Co. to look at the property south of the cemetery about cleanup. They will get him a price. Greg is waiting on a couple other people to look at it to quote it as well.

Greg Landrum asked about the 5-acres north of the wastewater plant, wanting to know if they are going to plant it for 2024. Don Parvin said no. Greg asked how soon we were going to start work on it. Don said we don't know for sure, and that is why we didn't want Carter's to plant on it again this year. We didn't want to have to wait for the crop to come off to do work there when we are ready.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, the claims, receipts, payrolls, bank recs, and time sheets were presented and approved. Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Landrum seconded, and the meeting came to an end at 5:59pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer