

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Town Council Meeting
September 15, 2014

President Jeff Lipinski opened the Regular Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2014 with prayer. Also present for the Council were Vice President Don Parvin, Council Members Cindy Aeschliman, Rob Hewitt and Greg Landrum.

The first item on the agenda was the alley closings off Nashville Street and South Union Street. Attorney David Cox was present representing Don and Kellie Parvin who requested the closings. Attorney Cox stated that all publications and notices to residents had been done as the law requires. There are no utility easements in the two alleys that would restrict closing. After a short discussion Rob Hewitt made a motion to close the alleys under Ordinance 2014 -04. Cindy Aeschliman seconded and the motion carried with Rob Hewitt, Cindy Aeschliman and Greg Landrum voting for passage.

Jeff Henson, Josh Cox, Mike Ward and Matt Prine were present from Indiana American Water Co. Indiana American Water Co. has bid on purchasing the Russiaville Water Utility. The Town Council voted to approve a referendum to the voters at the November 4th election. Matt Prine discussed the referendum concept and stated that they are excited about being involved in the Town. They are currently in fifty communities in Indiana and are available to answer any questions for the residents. A letter will be coming to each resident shortly and Jeff Lipinski stated he would like to see at least two meetings at the Community Center for discussion and questions. After a short discussion it was determined to schedule a meeting October 21st at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. The question from those present was why only one bid. Don Parvin explained there are not a lot of companies who are interested and Indiana American is a top notch company and is local rather than some distance away. All residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to have questions answered before voting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved.

Mike Kanable, Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission, reported issuing four new construction permits. Three are in Western Heights and one more in Honey Creek Hills. It was stated that two have been sold.

Josh Welch was present for the Park and Tree Board. They will be receiving four trees free from the Neighborwood Program. The Board has spent much time updating the Park Plan with valuable help from member Matt Johnson. They will be reviewing the Plan at their regular meeting October 6th and would be interested in any input from the Town Council. The majority of the Park Board is not in favor of keeping the tractor pull area on the Park grounds. It has been set aside as a park area with a number of trees planted and plans for walking trails, a picnic pavilion playground. They feel the tractor pull track does not fit in with the plans and ideas for the area. Jeff Lipinski stated he has had comments from residents who would like to see regular pulls here and he would like to figure out a way to make it happen. The Board as a whole agreed but was also concerned that the park atmosphere be maintained. There was also discussion about monies brought into the community by the Park Board and the Summerfest. Rhiannon Thompson with the Summerfest stated that a tractor pull fundraiser for a young Western girl who has cancer has been planned for October 11th. Greg Landrum noted that the efforts of both Committees are appreciated and the hope is that they can work together. He believes that this may help to incorporate the Community Center into the Town. Cindy Aeschliman is concerned that we maintain the integrity of the Park and asked about any other area in Town where we can set up

a track. Josh stated he believed the Summerfest had imposed itself on the Park Board. If the Council agrees to this they are ignoring the Park Board. The Community Center is a money making operation and this area is not a place for motor sports. Josh stated we are putting at risk the DNR Beautification Grant that enabled the placement of sixty plus trees in the park area. Matt Scott was present to state he is interested in seeing a permanent track. There is a potential for growth with the events and Rhiannon noted that more income could be generated by offering a meal during the events. Don Parvin stated that it was never the intent to undermine the authority of the Park Board and looking for another site may be an option. Cindy asked if the October 11th fundraiser was a problem. Josh Welch stated that as long as the area is not graded and seeded and precaution is taken to make sure no trees are hit he has not problem with the event. A motion was made by Greg Landrum to approve the October 11 fundraiser. Rob Hewitt seconded with Greg Landrum, Cindy Aeschliman and Rob Hewitt voting for the motion and Don Parvin voting against. An onsite meeting was scheduled with Council, Park & Tree Board and Summerfest at the park area on October 13th at 6 p.m. It was noted that a new basketball goal will be installed as soon as the rain stops.

The issue with the plugged wastewater line on North Liberty because of the root ball was discussed. Getting rid of the ball is a temporary fix. Excavation and replacement of the line is needed. The Council emphasized that proper precautions must be taken in any excavation. Jeff Lipinski stated that the next time a water line is hit he wants notification. He stated that a good method of notifying residents may be available through the Howard County Sheriff's Department. They have the ability to send out an alert to anyone who signs up for the service. It is also noted that even a particular geographic location can be selected for messages. The Council will arrange a meeting with our Wastewater Superintendent A. J. Humerickhouse to discuss the drying beds that have grates that are deteriorating. There are also some storm drain grates that need repair, curbs broken in Western Heights and alleys that need grading. The culvert on Chandler Street should be repaired sometime this week. The culvert that Duke Energy repaired on So. Liberty has never been completed. The picnic tables need to be sealed. Hydrants will be flushed next Monday and Tuesday. Don Parvin has requested we hire two young people to clean curbs for \$9.00 per hour. This was approved by the Council. It was also noted that the backhoe is in need of repair. In response to a question from the audience it was noted that the Town does not pick up leaves. There is an area behind the Wastewater tanks for residents to take any yard waste. A key is available for the gate at the Town Hall.

Roger Waddell presented the Marshal's Department Report. On motion made by Don Parvin and seconded by Rob Hewitt, Trick or Treat hours were set for October 31 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Roger noted that the siren at Kokomo Grain has been repaired and the Continuing Education Funds can be used to pay for the repairs. Jeff Lipinski stated that he met with Roger and the meeting was candid and very productive. The status of volunteer reserves was discussed. The Council authorized funding for at least two new reserves on motion made by Don Parvin and seconded by Rob Hewitt with Don, Rob, Cindy and Greg voting for approval.

Don Parvin would like to see our animal ordinance updated. It was determined that there will be no restrictions on skateboarding at the Town Hall.

Don presented a golf cart ordinance that he prepared. He looked at some ordinances from other communities. He believes we need to regulate them. Jeff Condo noted that according to our attorney there is a liability if they are regulated. Don stated he did not agree. Greg Landrum stated that we can write regulations for a number of things including bicycles but is it a good idea. This was tabled until the October meeting. Don noted the intent is to protect those on golf carts.

The Budgets for General Fund, MVH Fund, Local Road and Street Fund, Cumulative Capital Improvement and Cumulative Capital Development for 2015 were presented and passed on the first reading. They will be presented for the final reading and passage at October's regular meeting.

The Council has assigned Don Parvin to be in charge of the day to day operations of the Town.

The Council will look at what is needed in a sign ordinance.

Don expressed his appreciation to Max and Cory Martin for moving the Clothing recycling box from Waddell's Grocery Store to the area behind the Town Hall.

The large semi -annual trash pickup day is September 23rd.

Don Parvin is asking for help planning a celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Palm Sunday Tornado that leveled Russiaville. He also asked that a set of goals for Russiaville be generated.

There being no further business, claims were presented and approved and the meeting adjourned.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Linda Downey, Clerk Treasurer.