

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
November 15, 2021

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum

Jeff Lipinski gave prayer, and Rex Redding led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Minutes from last month's meeting, and one special meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable reported he had written one permit for an electrical upgrade at 635 N. Union St.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

TIF Board – Jeff Lipinski said he and the council had met with the TIF Board President, Mark Fulk, and gave him some ideas of the ways they were thinking the TIF funds could possibly be used. Jeff said he read on the Park Board report about hopefully making the center of town on Main Street look better, and making it look more attractive around the businesses. We are finally working on the lights down main street, and some throughout the town. Hopefully we can continue to make the town look better.

Historical Society – Jeff Lipinski said he also read on the park board report that they would like to possibly make the interurban station into a café/coffee shop/restaurant. Jeff said he hopes that can become a reality as the trail that is currently in Kokomo will eventually come through Russiaville where the train tracks are. We hope for the Interurban to become a trailhead, so that is a good idea.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said this past Saturday the Western School student council had some of its member here to rake leaves for some of the residents here in town from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. They did a great job, and they had pizza afterward. Jill thanked Pat and Megan Reel for picking up over 100 bags of leaves.

The “Keep the Light Shining Walk” was also this past Saturday; however, the weather was very nasty out, and they ended it early. Pat Reel asked if they would reschedule it. Jill said not for this year but, Janna Hyman, who headed this event up said she would like to make it a yearly event, so probably next fall. Jill said they raised over \$1,700.00 in donations for the walk, and they will continue to do more fundraisers to help with funds to be able to put in the Community Center Park playground and shelter.

They are going to have a raffle for a ½ a hog plus processing coming up and the winner will be drawn on December 10th, that will also help benefit the playground. Erica Parvin is working on this and will have the tickets first of the week.

Jill said she had talked to Julie Newlin about painting a mural on the west side of Waddells. Julie said that they are interested in that being done. Jill also talked to Rhonda Eades about doing it. Jeff Lipinski said that Jon Newlin had mentioned it to him and think it is good idea. Pat Reel said it would fit in nicely with the sidewalk project we are getting ready to do on South Union.

Jill Newby said she thinks we could have a good chance to get a Subaru grant for this project, so they will definitely apply.

Streets and Wastewater – A written report was given.

Marshal’s Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and gave a report. Josh stated he had applied for the IPEP grant, but we were denied.

Josh had a flyer that he and his wife, Tiffany, had made up to do a book drive this year. This would be for kid’s books. Josh would just like the okay to go ahead with this. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the police department to do the book drive. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Josh said he had been looking at the reserve program policy book. He would like to update this and be able to reinstate the reserve program next year. However,

he would not be ready to have a reserve until after Max is done with his training, so it will be quite a while yet.

Greg Landrum asked Josh if they were going to do a Christmas light contest in town like they had done a year or two ago. Josh said they really need more ways to get info out there because people say they didn't know about certain things here in town. Happenings get posted on social media, and they hang up flyers but sometimes it still does not reach people. Greg suggested a newsletter for Russiaville.

Josh said that Halloween went well. There were a lot of kids this year. The weather was decent too. EMA and Sheriff's Dept. helped out.

Treasurer's Report – A written report was given. Myrna Claar asked Megan where the grant money for the Historical Society shows up on the paperwork. Megan said there is a separate grant fund called the Heritage Support Grant Fund. This is because it is a grant.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said Dave will work on the sound baffles for the Community Center and everything else is on hold for now. The bidding process for the South Union Street sidewalk project will be done soon.

Don Parvin said the Main Street lighting project is almost done, and the new lights are being put in around the town. There have been a few issues, like the one on North Liberty that was put in in the wrong spot. Don has been dealing with Duke Energy on this and hopes it will all be done soon. Everyone think the new lights look really nice, and thanked Don for keeping with the project to make sure it was done correctly.

Don Parvin said the walls need to be fixed at the community center and repainted. We will need to pick a new color as the original one has been discontinued. We would need to do this before we put new baffles up.

Tax Abatement – Jeff Lipinski said he talked to Corbin King. Jeff said when we sold the functional devices building, we made a guarantee to the person that bought it that we would give them a tax abatement. This person paid what we wanted for the building with the agreement that he would get a tax abatement. We then found out it is not eligible for a tax abatement, so we talked to Corbin,

our attorney about it. After Corbin talked to some other attorneys on this, they said we could do an EDIT Fund Ordinance. We have to hire outside council for the fee of around \$3,000.00. They will write the ordinance that State Board of Accounts (SBOA) will approve of. It will be so that the town will pay the person \$5,000.00 for the next 5 years for a total of \$25,000.00. This will be from the fund 444. The purchaser agreed on ½ the amount that he was entitled to as a nice gesture to the town. Don Parvin made a motion to allow this and get this taken care of. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Fence between wastewater plant and Roger Carter's property – Roger Carter asked if that fence could be taken out. He would like to have a corner post there to make the line and only take it out to the woods. He would be willing to do the work. The council discussed it and said they did not have a problem with it as long as he left the corner post and a line post in the middle. Pat Reel made a motion to allow Roger Carter to take the fence out between the wastewater property and the field to the north of it, leaving the corner posts and one line post in the middle. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Nuisance Ordinance – Don Parvin said to table it for now.

The holiday and meeting schedule for 2022 was present. Megan said she will look at it and verify the dates and we can pass them in December.

Cub Scouts were present. There were 5 scouts present and they all introduced themselves. Jeff Lipinski gave them a quick government lesson on how town (the lowest level of government) government works. He said this council tries to do their best to make our community the best it can be.

Greg Landrum asked them why they joined the cub scouts. The main consensus was to help people and help in our community. Don Parvin asked if they would be willing to help Jill Newby out before they left this evening, and unload some boxes from her car. They said they would be happy to.

The Cub Scouts leader, Mark Baker, gave an overview of how the Scouts works. Mr. Baker asked about all of the roles within the town. The council and clerk-

treasurer introduced themselves and told a little about what they did in the town. Town Marshal also introduced himself.

Don Parvin said we need to get the salary ordinance ready to be passed next month.

Pat Reel asked Don to ask Duke Energy what we need to do to initiate the trees being trimmed around the power lines. There was one on fire this past Sunday. Don said he would call about this again as he has before.

Greg Landrum said someone approached him about a sound system being put in the Community Center. Don Parvin said there is a wheel around one in there, but we can look into it.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, the claims were presented and approved.

Greg Landrum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Parvin seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer