

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Jeff Stout Community Center
December 16, 2019

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt, Kyle Parvin, and Pat Reel.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Ned Sutherland, minister of First Baptist Church, gave prayer and Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Parvin, on behalf of the council, presented the “Linda Downey Outstanding Community Service Award” to Ned Sutherland. He is the 2019 recipient. Don thanked Mr. Sutherland for his work in the community. Ned thanked everyone, and stated they came to this community 4-1/2 years ago to become part of the First Baptist Church family. He has loved being able to walk everywhere in town. Ned said he loves Russiaville and is excited about our community.

Jeff Lipinski said that this would be Kyle Parvin’s last board meeting as council. Jeff said that Kyle has brought a nice, conservative approach to the board. Kyle has also helped us with the financial stability of the town. Don Parvin presented Kyle Parvin an award for his time (4 years) served on the Town Council. Kyle thanked everyone for this award.

Jeff Lipinski said that this would be Rob Hewitt’s last board meeting as council. Jeff said that Rob was a town employee before he got on the board. Jeff considers Rob a friend, first and foremost. Jeff said Rob is a wealth of knowledge as far as the utilities of the town, so he will be missed in that regard for sure, and Jeff appreciates everything Rob has done for the town. Jeff Lipinski presented Rob Hewitt an award for his time (12 years) served on the Town Council. Rob thanked everyone for this award.

Minutes from last month’s meeting were approved. Also, Megan Reel said Rick Homkes told her the figures in the October minutes he questioned from the Historical Society and Community Foundation were accurate and no changes

needed to be made. The minutes from the special meeting on Dec. 12th were also approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present to report he had written a permit for a garage at 420 N. East St. Jeff Lipinski asked Mike if there were any open lots in Honey Creek Hills or Western Heights. Mike said the only lots that have not been built on, are ones that a homeowner next door to the property has bought. So basically no.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No one was present to report.

TIF – No one was present to report.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar was present. She said they have a meeting on a regular basis, the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. It is at the Town Hall for the time being, as the annex has been winterized. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present. She said they were looking at replacing a piece of equipment in Brady Park. The old piece is cracked and worn. Jill had a picture of what they were looking at putting in there. It is within the budget of \$4,200.00 that is still in the appropriation, it is on sale for \$4,106.00. The company is going to do an aerial view to make sure the piece will fit in there for sure. They will have to take out the horse as this is a bigger piece than the existing one. Don Parvin made a motion to purchase the piece of playground equipment for \$4,106.00, providing all specs will let it fit in there correctly, for Brady Park. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Rob, Kyle, and Pat voting for passage.

Jill said they are looking at grants to do the park at the Community Center.

Jill said they have been collecting bottle caps to be able to do a recycled bench. She has talked to Mickey Jeffers at Howard County Recycling, and she said they no longer do the benches. Jill has been told of another place, farther away, that does the recycled benches. They have a couple people that are willing to donate some money toward this.

Jill said Erica Parvin did some investigation on the sound baffles at the Community Center. For this size of room, they would need about 27 baffles. They are \$300.00 each, so that would be \$8,100.00.

Don Parvin said Dave Kieser looked into this when we were looking at putting carpet in the Community Center previously. Jill, said it was just something on their list that they had looked into.

Jill said the signs along the trail are ready to be put up, but this may have to wait until spring because of the ground.

They still have the money from the Artwork grant, and are looking into this. They have been worried about vandalism, as they have had some along the trail. They are questioning the liability on the artwork since they would be leased. Jill has spoken to Ashley Wyrick about the insurance, and she does not think the Town's insurance covers that, but she is checking.

Jill said Rick Homkes reported to her that the Tree City USA application is in. Jeff Lipinski asked Jill when the new piece of playground equipment would go in, she said it would be spring. Jeff also asked if the old piece still needs to be removed. Jill said yes.

Streets and Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present. He stated BL Anderson would be out to do the start up for the new blower January 6th.

Jeff Lipinski asked Craig about the final wastewater percentage for the year. Craig said he has not, the December report is not due until January 28th, so he will know more next month.

Marshal's report – Randy Vannatter was present, and gave a written report.

Randy stated the cameras had been installed at the Community Center, it is not quite done but would be finished this weekend.

Randy said they had put in for a grant for radios, and some other Police Department things. They were approved for \$24,652.00. It is a reimbursement grant. Todd Everling, who has worked on this, said he knows this money was not budgeted. He said we could walk away from it and we would be out nothing.

Todd said Megan would be the one who has to deal with this paperwork. Megan Reel asked if this would all be from next year's budget. Randy said yes, it would start in January. After some more discussion about this, Pat Reel made a motion for them to proceed with this grant. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, Don, and Kyle voting for passage.

Landen Bartley was present from the Russiaville Volunteer Fire Department. He said they received the letter about removing the ambulance and fire truck from the town hall by March 15th, they are working on finding a place for them as there is no room for them at the fire station. Landen asked about the fire contract amount for 2020. Jeff Lipinski said normally the contract amount is \$17,871.00. The Town has appropriated \$20,000.00 for the fire department for 2020. Don Parvin asked about the contract, as we would need that before any payment could be made to them. Landen said he would bring it next month.

Treasurer's Report – A written report was given. Jeff Lipinski asked Megan Reel why we took in \$5,207.00 in trash disposal. Megan said she would check on this figure and let him know if it was accurate.

Jeff Lipinski said he would like to look into Atlas Collections (new business). He would like to look at the info he was given, and talk about it at the January meeting. Megan stated it is collections for delinquent customers and ordinance violations at no cost to us, so she felt it was worth looking into.

Dave Kieser – Jeff Lipinski said the council met with Mr. Kieser on December 12th to talk about the wastewater plant upgrade. Dave sent his on-call agreement for 2020. This agreement would not exceed \$10,000.00 for the year. Don Parvin made a motion to accept the agreement. Kyle Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Kyle, Rob, and Pat voting for passage.

NL Grant/Ethel Compensation – Megan Reel said she talked to Ethel Morgan.

There will be a pay application from Davidson for the work on the blower. They will just have one pay app, so they are waiting until it is complete.

Jeff Lipinski asked the council about compensation for Ethel that was talked about a few months ago. Jeff asked if there was money left over. Megan Reel said the way she understands, there is not money left over. Ethel dropped her fee, so that we would just use the money in the grant and be done with the project. Jeff Lipinski asked Craig Thompson about the work Ethel did on this blower project. Craig said she drew up all the plans for it. The council discussed further about this, and Pat Reel asked Craig's opinion. Craig said he thought \$5,000.00 that was originally talked about was a little high, but Ethel did us a favor and helped us, she did all the work and drew up the plans, so if something happens it falls back on her. Craig said we are paying her for the work, it just wouldn't be anything

additional. Don Parvin made a motion not to pay additional compensation to Ethel Morgan for the blower work. Kyle Parvin seconded. Rob Hewitt opposed. Motion carried with Don, Kyle, and Pat.

Salary Ordinance for 2020 – Ordinance # 2019-04 – Don Parvin made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-04 approving the 2020 salaries on the third and final reading. Rob Hewitt seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Don, Rob, and Kyle voting for passage.

Parking at the Community Center – Don Parvin spoke about the ball park scheduling, people that are going to the ball park, park in the Community Center lot and there are times when the Community Center is rented for an event. Don stated he does not mind sharing and being a good neighbor, but there is usually plenty of parking by the Lions Club, but people park at the Community Center anyway. Even when the “event parking only” sign is put up. Don thinks it is a scheduling issue, the ball schedules so many things at the same time, and then there are days there is nothing. Jill Newby said she sent an email to the ball park people about this and the Community Center schedule each month during the ball season. Jill knows it is nicer to park over here, maybe if the Lions Club parking was nicer it would help.

Pat Reel made a motion to leave this alone for now, as he is not sure how we can fix the issue. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin was opposed. The motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Kyle voting for passage.

Vincent Hale – He was not present.

Sign for the Community Center – Pat Reel said he would like to put a sign for the Community Center with an arrow at State Road 26 and 775 W./West St. There is a lot of people ask. There is a sign at 750 W. and 330 S. The state would have to approve that. Craig and Pat will look into this.

Dumpster at Community Center – Pat Reel said he would like to see the dumpster at the interurban moved down to the Community Center. Craig has to drag the 2 smaller totes out to the street every week. Craig said they moved the dumpster originally because they paved the Community Center lot and they didn’t want a trash truck driving across it. We also had some illegal dumping. Pat Reel said we

have cameras now. Pat is just trying to help Craig out, he thinks a trash truck would be fine on it. Pat said it is up to Craig. Craig said he is fine with dragging the trash cans, and doesn't want the dumpster.

Ned Sutherland said the RCO (Russiaville Community Outreach) started talking a year and a half ago about running a shuttle bus from Russiaville to Kokomo, and with Main Street to Greentown to Kokomo. Ned stated someone had donated a bus to their church. They are looking at running the shuttle 3 days a week, for 4 hours a day. They are talking to Paul Wyman, Tyler, Moore, and Tammy Corn about some possible grants for this.

Don Parvin said there was an erosion problem down at Kyle Parvin's house on Carter Street. He has had drain issues, Kyle said it seems the whole street drains into his garage. Don Parvin made a motion to look into this and fix this issue. Rob Hewitt seconded. Kyle Parvin abstained. The motion carried with Don, Rob, and Pat voting for passage.

Jeff Lipinski said Rob Hewitt and Kyle Parvin will be missed on this council. They have done a nice job for this town. They have done a lot of things that people don't know about, and helped the town grow. Financially the town is in the best shape it has been in for quite some time.

Alan Sanders from the First Baptist Church has some lumber they would like to put on our burn pile. Megan Reel stated as long as there were no nails in it, they could. Mr. Sanders said there were nails in it. Don Parvin said they could not put it there then, as people who drive back there get flat tires from it.

Megan Reel said not to forget that January's regular meeting would be the fourth Monday, not the third.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, and no more comments from council or guests, the claims were presented and approved.

Rob Hewitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Parvin seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer