

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Regular Council Meeting  
Town Hall – 5:00pm  
April 24, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum.  
Corbin King, the town’s attorney was also present.

Myrna said a prayer, and Jake Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The public bid hearing for the property at 220 S. was opened by Don Parvin. This is the property located west of the New London cemetery and south of the old New London wastewater plant site. Robert Rutherford was present to bid on the property. Mr. Rutherford agreed to pay \$1,750.00 plus the appraisal costs and survey costs. The total amount of all this \$3,634.00. Mr. Rutherford also agreed to pay all closing costs. Pat Reel made a motion to sell the piece of property to Mr. Rutherford for \$3,634.00 + closing costs. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.  
Don Parvin closed the public bid hearing.

Regular council meeting began.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Megan Reel gave written reports.

Streets/Wastewater – Don Parvin said no one would be here tonight and there wasn’t anything to report on.

Marshal’s Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said Landen Bartley asked him about using 4 of our mobile radios. Josh does not know any other information, and feels if the council allows this there needs to be paperwork drawn up to do so. The council asked a few questions, and said for Josh, Pat and Jake to get the information and then they would decide.  
Josh also asked about working for some comp time to help out on 500 S., 600 S. and 250 S. with traffic while State Rd. 26 is closed as there have been several

complaints. Jake Gibson asked how many hours they thought would be extra. Josh and Carl said they thought about 20 hours at the most for each month. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow Josh and Carl to work extra traffic in the areas stated for comp time. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin asked about the parade. Josh Fulkerson said everything went well on their part. The floats were a little late, but all turned out good.

Pat Reel thanked Josh and Carl for their help with "Every 15 Minutes" the mock accident that was put on at the school today.

Don Parvin asked about Max (k9). Carl said he is getting there. Shouldn't be much longer.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department – Jake Gibson asked Megan if she had received the signed contract back from the fire department yet. Megan said she had not. Jake said he had not received their quarterly report either. There was further discussion about this being a battle every year to get the fire contract timely. And now they want the towns radios. Pat Reel said there are good people over there that will help anyone, we just need some communication. Jake Gibson said he would handle the contract and try to find out what is going on with the radios.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said there was an immunization clinic recently at Western School, put on by the county health department. The next one is at Eastern School. The next meeting is this Thursday.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said the New London property has been taken care of.

The property at 3949 S. 775 W. paperwork has not been signed by the owner yet. Corbin said Megan told him that she had talked to her and she had not signed yet as she had been sick and was stressed about her time to get everything out that she wanted in the time allotted, as she has not been physically able to do it. Corbin said he would like her signature, and then we can work on a fair time frame for this to get finished up. Corbin said he has called her but she had not returned his calls. Megan said she would reach out to her to get it taken care of.



Corbin said he had not heard anything from the Humane Society. He will call them again.

Corbin said the library wants our help on the piece of property west of them. He said there is nothing we can do; they need to get their own attorney to see what their rights are. Don Parvin asked if we should just quitclaim deed the property ourselves as an easement or leave it and let them work it out amongst themselves. No one owns it so we can't give them the ok to do anything. Corbin said they want us to tell them it's ok but if they go talk to someone, they will be able to tell them, if it is platted, a utility can dig it up if needed or not and do you really want to do this. Corbin said it was just one of those properties that the 2 abutting properties had two different surveyors come in and that little strip was left in the middle.

Rick Homkes said he had it on the list to do some cleanup there on community day in May.

Don Parvin the Duke Energy contractor never fixed Koloszar's property that they tore up. Don said he would like to just fix it ourselves. Pat Reel made a motion to get this fixed by whomever was decided on. Jan Koloszar was present and said it is all kind of filling in, and they have covered things and it has all changed back there. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Myrna voting for passage.

Plan Commission – Megan Reel said Mike Kanable had left his report with her, and he had written 2 permits. One for demolition at 436 N. Union, and the other one for a chicken coop permit at 550 N. Liberty St.

Don Parvin said when there was a gas leak at 436 N. Union St. they dug the concrete approach up, so this needs to be fixed back the way it was. Also, the berm between the sidewalk and the street needs to be fixed, tilled, and graded, and seeded. Since the contractor is the one who caused it, it falls to the homeowner to fix it. Pat Reel made a motion that when the house is rebuilt, the cement approach needs to be fixed and all the grading and seeding needs to be done between the sidewalk and the road. Adding we can send him a letter stating this. Don Parvin said we will revisit this if he doesn't rebuild. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.

Megan Reel said our ordinance says that we must charge the minimum on a sewer bill even if someone is not living in a house as we don't know, in some

cases, if they are or are not. She asked, since there were two recent house fires, and it is obvious that they are not using the sewer, can they give them a time frame where we would not charge them for sewer until they could get done what they need to. Don Parvin said no, unless the sewer was capped. Don said if the sewer is not capped there will be infiltration into the sewer. He said the house on Union Street is almost done being tore down and they should be ready to cap the sewer and have it inspected, so they will be charged until it is capped and inspected by us. Don Parvin said as far as the one in New London he is abstaining and would like Pat Reel to take over the meeting on this matter. Pat Reel said we are small town enough that we will know what is going on with these houses and where they are in their process when something like this happens to be able to deal with what needs to be charged. Jake Gibson asked Megan a time frame for this. She said maybe 3 months. Jake said with the insurance, rebuilding, labor, etc. understands that is a process. Pat Reel said they need to stay in contact with us, and we will check on them too, to see what is going on. Pat added that he agrees with Don on the one here in town, that it is close to being torn down and ready to be capped, so we will charge them until it is capped. As for the one in New London, they are in process of tearing it down, and will cap it until it is rebuilt. This will be on a case-by-case basis. Jake Gibson made a motion to give people up to 6 months to get their house torn down after a disaster such as fire, in this case, to get their sewer capped and not be charged. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Myrna, and Pat voting for passage.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Roger Waddell said there was no new business.

TIF Board – Rick Homkes was present and said they are finalizing the Town of Russiaville signs for State Rd. 26. Their next meeting is this Thursday. They also got quotes, in the range of \$50K - \$75K, from 3 places for a generator at the Community Center. Don Parvin asked about working on the green space at the 4-way stop by the Carl Koontz memorial. Rick said he would.

Historical Society – Don Parvin said hopefully next month the Interurban Station would be started. Jan Koloszar said there was a program on the 1965 Tornadoes at the Lions Club on April 11<sup>th</sup> (this was the actual date it happened in 1965). It went very well, and they had a nice turn out. Darlene Homkes added that there were 89 people in attendance.



Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and reported they got the new swing frame installed in Brady Park. There were broken straps on the seat swing in the town park, and a new one was ordered.

Jill said she had talked to the Eagle Scout that wanted to put in the gaga pit. They are looking at a spot south of the shelter in the Russiaville Town Park for possibly doing the project. Jan Koloszar explained what a gaga pit is, adding the kids really like it. Jill said she would meet with the scout and mark something out so council could look at it and see what they thought. After talking to him they will approach the board.

Jill said they had donations for the playground recently. They received \$5,000.00 from Solidarity and \$700.00 from The Kokomo Lantern. They are very thankful to get this support. They also received notice that their application was accepted by the Community Foundation in the amount of \$100,000.00. They are very excited to receive this, they are almost half way to the match that they need to apply for the DNR grant. The Community Foundation grant is contingent that they get the DNR grant. Jill asked the council to look at what she had to sign for this grant. They said they were fine with it, and to go ahead and sign.

Jill said they are looking at getting something together for the park rules. She said there are several. Josh Fulkerson said just the main, most important ones would be what he would like.

Jill said community day was coming up and she is still looking for projects if we have any.

Exit Jake Gibson.

Honey Creek Ditch – Don Parvin said to take this off the agenda for now.

Community Center – Alcohol Contract – Don Parvin asked the council to look at the 2 examples from Corbin that they were given last month. He would like us to make a decision on this at the May meeting.

Don Parvin said the quote for the TOPO (topographical survey) from 40<sup>th</sup> Parallel that we have to have for the Interurban Station. The amount is \$2,695.00. Myrna Claar made a motion to accept the quote for the TOPO and get it done. Pat Reel

seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried with Myrna, Pat, and Don voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson asked for the council's permission to see what it would take to have a community day with some food trucks and some fun things to do. He has talked to Lori at the library and they may partner together if they can make it all work right. He just wants to gather information at this point. The council was fine with him looking into it. Josh said he would do that and bring to the council at a later date.

Garrett Conway was present from OCRA. He is the East Central Liaison, that covers Howard County, and he gave an overview on what they do and the grants they have. They have a grant for historic properties that are income producing, wastewater grants, and hooking up people to broadband.

Sound System for Community Center – Megan said she got a quote from talking about this previously when the sound panels were put in from the Sound of Music. The council discussed this and asked Megan if she had a lot of comments on wanting this. She said 3 or 4 in the last few years. The quote was \$5,469.93. After some discussion about the need, and maintaining it, and also budget constraints, the council decided they were not in favor of having a sound system at the Community Center at this time.

The benches at the park have been taken care of at this time.

Myrna Claar said after looking into the shelters and the costs, she had talked to Jake Gibson and they do not feel that the money should be spent at this time. Other projects need to take precedence.

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. Myrna Claar seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Don Parvin, President  
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer