

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Regular Council Meeting  
Russiaville Town Hall  
April 25, 2022

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

Ned Sutherland gave prayer. Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. She noted that on the reports, the fund numbers had all been changed from 3 digits to 4 per the SBOA (State Board of Accounts).

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and had a written report. Craig had a quote for \$33,314.00 from Crenshaw Paving to get the alleys behind the bank and in between the tax office and AT&T building fixed. This has doubled since we quoted it in 2020, but it probably will not be any cheaper. After some discussion, Pat Reel made a motion to get this done as these alleys are in bad shape. The motion died for lack of a second.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present with a written report. Josh said he would like board approval for the policy and procedures for the reserve program. Don Parvin made a motion to approve the policies and procedures for the reserve program and the field training officer manual. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Josh said there was a report done on some damage done to a town drain at 312 East St. Don Parvin said he had talked to the homeowner and they have agreed to fix this when they put in their new driveway in June. Josh said he would note the report.

Josh said the baseball parade went well. He thanked the Sheriff's Dept. and EMA for their help.

Josh also stated that Carl Swan has taken on coordinating a bike rodeo. This will be at the library on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Josh has completed the disaster phone list. Pat Reel added if there was a need for an actual plan that we would follow the EMA Howard County plan.

Greg Landrum extended the praises that he had recently heard about our police department, and thanked Josh and Carl for all their hard work.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King stated for the easements on South Union for the sidewalks the council needs to talk to the homeowners to make sure people are on board with the new sidewalk project, and if they will give easements to be able to put the sidewalks in. Greg Landrum asked if having new sidewalks would add to the homeowner's property values, and Corbin said yes. Corbin said once we have talked to the homeowners, then we can draw up paperwork for them to sign. We will have to have new legal descriptions and get it recorded.

Corbin King asked about the land purchase. Don Parvin said that he had asked Roger Carter about purchasing five acres of land for the wastewater plant just to the north of where it is now. Mr. Carter said he may be interested in selling it. Don Parvin said he told him that we would have to get 2 appraisals. The highest appraisal came in at \$49,000.00, so Don said he told him that is all we could pay for it. Mr. Carter accepted the offer, but would like to farm the land and receive the money for the crops until the construction for the new wastewater plant begins. Don told Mr. Carter he would seek the council's approval on this. Don Parvin made a motion to purchase the 5 acres from Roger Carter just north of the existing wastewater plant on West St. for \$49,000.00 and allow Mr. Carter to farm the land until the town was ready to break ground for the new wastewater plant. The money to pay for this will come out of the sewage fund. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin asked Corbin King about a purchase agreement. Corbin said yes there would be a closing and title work.

Don Parvin made a motion that all fees for the closing and anything associated with this sale would be paid by the town out of wastewater fund. Myrna Claar

seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Corbin King said as far as what he had received from Megan, he believes the town is still in the opioid settlement.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present and said he had written 3 permits. A shed and driveway at 312 N. East St., and new home at 645 E. Main St., and a fence at 417 Chaparral Dr.

There is still a vacancy on the plan commission that needs to be filled.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

TIF Board – Megan reminded the council there will be a TIF meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Historical Society – No new business to report.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present. She said they have been working on the playground layout. They are not quite ready to present it yet. Quite a bit of it will be inclusive. The owner of Playpros will present when they are ready. They are working on putting a shelter in at the same time as well.

Bathrooms have been talked about in this area. Jill is very worried about this because of vandalism. She brought up about the recent vandalism at Logansport bathrooms. Several communities have had this happen, this is a lot of money to do this and it would be awful if people did damage to them like these other communities are experiencing.

Jill said that Community Day is coming up on May 14th. She is looking for project that could be done. They are looking for golf carts to be able to be used that day. Jill asked about using the town golf cart. Don Parvin said if they are spreading mulch, Craig and Paul will need it for that. Good point noted.

Reba Casler was present and said that the memorial bricks are still on sale for \$100.00. They plan on doing another project with these when they put the shelter in.

Don Parvin asked if anyone knew if the Western Heights Pond had been surveyed. The council said they thought it probably had at some point but was unsure. Pat wanted to know why it needed surveyed, Don said that Rick Homkes had asked him and he did not know. Don Parvin said he would do some checking with the county and bring this back up again.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said there is nothing new at this time

Community Center Acoustics – Jeff Lipinski said he was there last night for the Turnabout fundraiser that Ned Sutherland organized. There were about 120 people there and it was loud. He feels that we need to do something. Jeff Lipinski read the quote and said we could do the lower half of the room for \$11,000.00 or the whole thing for \$14,538.00. Jeff Lipinski said he agreed they did not look great but there needs to be something done for the sound.

Pat Reel made a motion to allow the lower half of the acoustic panels to be done in the Community Center for \$11,000.00 paid out of General office equipment appropriation. Greg Landrum seconded. Don Parvin was opposed. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Nuisance Ordinance 2022-02 – All changes were made from the previous meeting. Don Parvin made a motion to pass Nuisance Ordinance 2022-02 on the third and final reading. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Ordinance 2022-01 for the Capitalization Threshold Policy – Don Parvin made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-01 on the third and final reading. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Community Center Agreement – tabled

Exercise at the Community Center – Missy Scott was present to ask permission to use the Community Center for free to have some exercise classes there. She has an instructor that is willing to do the classes for free. Don Parvin made a motion to allow them to use the Community Center for free for some exercise classes as

the instructor is not getting paid. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Missy will get with Megan about dates and times.

Farmers Market – Lexi Hunt is present to ask permission to 2 times per month beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> thru October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Still from 11am – 3pm. Lexi would also like to do a spring market kick off on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Don Parvin made a motion to allow the Farmers Market again this year. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Lexi said the gas station said there were issues with the bathrooms being used down there. She wanted to know if at least the vendors could use the town hall bathrooms. The council said that would be fine.

Ned Sutherland said they had 120 people at the fundraiser for Turnabout Community Resource Center and raised and pledged about \$28,000.00. They are still looking for a building to do their programs out of. They were looking at the Community Health Network building. They are not ready to sell this at this point.

Greg Landrum asked about negotiating the price of the acoustic panels for the Community Center to be able to do the whole thing. Jeff Lipinski said for Greg to give them a call to talk about it.

Don Parvin said the town received a check for \$3,428.00 from Duke Energy for the damage done to N. Union St. sewage line that he filed a claim against.

Don Parvin said the Town Hall and Park property has been surveyed.

Don Parvin said he will try to get in contact with Kevin Sutter about sealing the roads in town.

Don Parvin said there has been some illegal dumping at the wastewater plant. We recently had mattresses, construction materials, and tires that we have had to pay to get rid of. People will still be able to dump leaves and burnable yard waste but they will only be able to do it during business hours Monday through Friday and they will have to stop and/or call so that the town employees can see what they are dumping.

Don Parvin said that Craig Thompson told him he had another job offer for more money plus benefits. Don said he told Craig that he didn't want to lose him but the town could not match the offer. Don said he and Craig had talked and Craig said he would stay if he could have some part time help with the mowing and a few other things. Don said that since Craig is the wastewater operator for Western School, he would like to give him \$400.00 of the \$600.00 that we bill Western School for each month for the wastewater testing. Reference July 15, 2019 minutes for the original agreement. Don Parvin made a motion to give Craig \$400.00 of the \$600.00 we currently bill Western School for each month. Myrna Claar seconded. Pat Reel was opposed. The motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Getting part-time help was discussed. Don Parvin made a motion to hire someone and have them work up to 20 hours per week seasonally per our salary ordinance for part-time utility laborer at a rate of \$13.50 per hour. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

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

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

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer