Town of Russiaville, Indiana

Regular Town Council Meeting

March 16, 2015

Council President Jeff Lipinski called the meeting to order with Vice President Don Parvin, Council Members Cindy Aeschliman, Rob Hewitt, Greg Landrum and Town Attorney Corbin King also present.

Josh Welch opened with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved.

Mike Kanable, Executive Secretary of the Plan Commission reported no new business. In response to a question from Jeff Lipinski, Mike stated that he had issued 9 new home construction permits in the past year.

Josh Welch, Park and Tree Board Chairman, stated that the bid from Back Yard Gardeners for the landscaping of the center circle at the Community Center had been accepted. May 18 is the date for the Fourth Annual Western High School Senior Class ‘Give Back to the Community Day. This is a day the Town looks forward to welcoming the Western Seniors who come and do an amazing job of assisting with many projects for the Town and its people. This year one of the projects will be landscaping the area around the Police Station. Josh stated that there are trees that are available to plant at the interurban when the area is ready. Any other areas in need should be identified because the plan is to plant all the trees that are available to the town. It was noted that April 25th is opening day of the ball season and the Community Center is rented. Traffic control may be a concern. Josh announced that he and Laura Redding took advantage of an opportunity to attend the Tree Steward Program offered in Kokomo.

Haley Martin, Adam Renshaw and Anna Trent were present to discuss plans for community gardens in Russiaville. They asked for approval to use an area north of the Community Center Building about forty feet by 40 feet. One third of the produce will benefit those in need. Property owners are encouraged to join in the fun. Raised beds and pots are an excellent idea. They would like to get ten or twelve volunteers. The construction material for the beds is donated skids. The Council approved the plans and thanked the group for what they are doing.

Craig Thompson presented the Streets, Water and Wastewater Reports. The blower and motor at the New London Plant needs to be rebuilt or replaced. Replacement cost would be about $2475.00 and a rebuilt would cost over $1600. On motion made by Rob Hewitt and second by Cindy Aeschliman the Council voted to purchase the new equipment. Jeff Condo asked about the time frame for the potential connection of the New London system to Russiaville. Jeff Lipinski stated it could be four years. Craig reported that the west tank skimmer arm has been repaired. Craig talked with the Council about a system to alleviate the constant repairs because of the cold temperatures. It would cost about $13,000 to install equipment that would prevent the freezing and equipment breakage. Because we have spent close to $8,500 in repairs this year Craig encouraged the Council to consider making the improvements before next winter. Chlorination was started at the Wastewater plant April 1st. Don Parvin stated that the hot box has been repaired and which will allow the town to purchase cold patch from Central Paving in Logansport at a much lower cost than the bag mixture from Lowes. Another plus is that the heated cold patch is a much more durable product. The leak repair at the property on North Union Street was discussed. The problem was determined to be the homeowners and Davidson Excavating will bill them.

Roger Waddell presented the Marshal’s Department Report. Thursday, May 19 will be the severe weather test day for Howard County. There will be two tests. A test will be run in the morning and one in the evening. All of Russiaville’s warning sirens and the siren at Western School are operational. Randy VanNatter came back to work March 6th. It was noted that Easy Zimmerman, our very efficient volunteer officer, has not worked as much as normal due to the recent death of the mother and grandmother. The Council offered their expression of sympathy and wanted Officer Zimmerman to know that he should take as much time as he needed.

A possible ordinance regulating golf carts was discussed. Don Parvin stated he prepared the ordinance for consideration but at this time he was not going to choose sides. Greg Landrum stated he believed the few isolated cases involving could be handled by talking with the people involved instead of passing an ordinance. Roger stated it is a grey area. An ordinance would give some direction as to how to proceed with the problems. Corbin King suggested getting the community involved. After a short discussion the Council determined to announce a public hearing concerning the regulations at the April 20th Council Meeting.

The Planning Commission will make arrangements to meet concerning a sign ordinance.

Don discussed the upcoming remembrance of the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado. It will be a very informative event that will be held at the Jeff Stout Community Center on Saturday, April 11.

Don also expressed his appreciation to Crain Thompson for his effort to pick up the slack as he operates both plants on his own until Kyle Smith can begin work. He made a motion to increase Craig’s pay by $2.25 an hour retroactive to March 1. Rob Hewitt seconded and the motion carried. He also wanted on record that Craig Thompson will be supervisor of all three plants which include Russiaville Water, Wastewater and New London Wastewater.

Linda Downey, Clerk Treasurer, announced that she is retiring the end of December and would like the Council to consider splitting the position into the elected Clerk Treasurer’s position and a Utility Clerk. This will be discussed further in the near future.

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

Jeff Lipinski, President Linda Downey, Clerk Treasurer