

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall – 5pm
January 22, 2024

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Greg Landrum, and Roger Waddell

Don Parvin gave prayer. Greg Landrum led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the December 2023 meeting and a special meeting on January 17th were approved.

Cash with Berry Comm was present. He said they had put in fiber internet lines up to 330 S., and they are planning to come through Russiaville. Cash gave an overview of Berry Comm's fiber internet. Don Parvin asked about the advantages of hooking on to their fiber internet service. Cash stated that the line that they run is to you and only you, you are not sharing with others. Fiber is a lot faster. Upload and download speeds are the same. Weather does not affect the service. Cash also stated they are planning an event here in town at the Community Center on February 7th at 6:30 pm to educate people on the service. They are sending out a mailer soon.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said she had a quote from Jordan Buckley from Flat Top Geek to fix her computer network security as it is outdated. This was talked about at the December meeting. The quote is for \$1,485.99. Pat Reel made a motion to allow Flat Top Geek to upgrade the computer system. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Roger, and Greg voting for passage.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson had a written report. Craig had a spreadsheet he had put together with the last 10 years of paving done with costs, and the ratings of the roads from 2023.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report, and a 2023 yearly report. Josh stated they had started receiving apps back from a few people for the reserve officer position.

Also, the Durango has been fixed and they have it back.

Public Safety – Nothing to report.

EMA Advisory – Nothing to report.

Health Department – Rick Homkes was present and said the next meeting for this was this Thursday. There is discussion of the next tabletop they will have.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King was not present.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable said he had one permit for a duplex at 690 N. Union St. Don Parvin said the Plan Commission still needs 1 new member for a replacement for 2024.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Don Parvin said they still needs 2 new members for replacements for 2024.

TIF Board – Myrna Claar was present and said they had an organizational meeting on Jan. 2nd and their next meeting is Jan. 25th at 6pm.

Historical Society – Don Parvin said we are getting Phase I closed out, and Phase II will start soon.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said April 1, 2024 is the deadline for fundraising for the playground. They are talking to several people for in kind donations. If they can get work donated, they can use what it would have cost for part of the money. They are talking to Western School about a fundraiser for the project that will help get kids involved in it.

Jill talked about the restrooms for the project. We have talked about the pros and cons of having a restroom near the playground, and she knows it is stressful because of vandalism, and upkeep, etc.

Rick Homkes said there are points for the grant that help with better chances of getting more money from the DNR. A restroom is one of those things that would increase our chances.

Greg Landrum suggested tapping into, building a bathroom off the community center, to be able to tie into the water and sewer lines that are already existing. The ballpark restrooms were brought up, these are currently only open when the concession stand is open.

Kristy High was present. She expressed her excitement about this playground that will be open at all times. Also, the fact that her child that is in a wheel chair, will be able to play with her other children in the same place and on the same equipment. She agreed with having a restroom that was close to the playground, stating if you have several kids and you have to go a distance to take one to the restroom, then you have to take them all. Whereas if it is really close, it would be a lot easier.

There was further discussion about the restrooms for the playground at the community center, including who would take care of them. Greg Landrum said he would clean them.

Greg Landrum made a motion to allow restrooms to be put in at the community center playground. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Greg, Pat, and Roger voting for passage.

Rick Homkes said he had sent the 2023 accomplishments and the 2024 goals to Megan to be forwarded to the council. Council said they had received them, and didn't have any questions. Megan said she would have them put on the website.

Don Parvin asked about money for the shelter from the town. He had previously asked the council if they would like to give money for the shelter and where they would like it to come from. Jill Newby said the TIF board has voted to fund the shelter portion of the project. There was some discussion about this, and it was decided to table it until March.

Dave Kieser – Nothing new to report on. We just had a meeting with him on Jan. 17th regarding all of the projects that are going on.

Community Service Award for 2023 –Kent Milburn was recognized as the Community Service Award recipient for 2023. Kent has always been a pillar in our community, he is a wealth of Russiaville historical knowledge, and he always cared about everyone in town, and he never met a stranger. We truly miss him at

our town council meetings, because of recent health issues he has not been able to come.

Arbor Day Resolution 2024-01 – Roger Waddell read the Resolution and Arbor Day will be April 26, 2024. Greg Landrum made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-01. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Rick Homkes said the library will give away 100 trees again this year on Arbor Day.

Julie Newlin was present to represent New London. She is going to try to be at meetings in case there are things pertaining to New London. Julie also would like to express her thanks to this community and beyond for supporting Waddells over the year.

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. Greg Landrum seconded, and the meeting came to an end at 6:09pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer