

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall
January 23, 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 Greg Landrum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the December meeting and a special meeting on January 17, 2023 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan added that she had received a call and watched a demo from textmygov about texting app for the town. The quote for this was \$3,250.00 for the set up and \$2,000.00 per year. After some discussion, Pat Reel made a motion to not do this at this time. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby said they changed their officers up just a little for this year. Jill said she would remain as president, Reba Casler is vice president, Janna Hyman is secretary, and Rick Homkes will be treasurer.

(#2 – new business) Jill asked if anyone had questions on the accomplishments and goals report that council were given before the meeting. Council all said they were good with them.

(#3 – new business) Arbor Day Resolution 2023-01 – Don Parvin read the Resolution and Arbor Day will be April 28, 2023. Pat Reel made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-01. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Jill Newby said she and Rick had met with the DNR to discuss the requirements for the playground grant. They have been working on raising money, but they need 50% before they can even apply. They spoke to a man named Rick Johnson about raising the funds on a bigger scale as there is a lot to raise. He will try to help and advise them on this.

Streets/Wastewater – Don Parvin said he didn't think there was much to report. Craig Thompson could not be here tonight. They did get more salt and are ready for the next snow.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson gave a written report, along with an annual report. Josh brought up the ongoing speeding issues on South Union. Don Parvin said he has seen both he (Josh) and Carl out there and appreciates their effort on this matter. Don said they cannot be out there 24/7 to deal with this issue.

EMA Advisory – Pat Reel said he wanted to report from the last meeting, EMA logged 17,000 man-hours for 2022 saving our town/county/the city \$500,000.00. Pat said it is great that we have them, and appreciate all they do.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he was still looking into the land for Mr. Rutherford in New London. He is looking into the statute to see if we need an appraisal, etc. We will need to get it surveyed. Pat Reel made a motion to get this property by the old New London plant site surveyed. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Property at 3949 S. 775 W. (#2 – old business) – Greg Landrum asked about cleaning it up. He asked Corbin where we should start. Corbin said we could contact her and maybe invite her to a meeting and discuss her intentions for the property that would be beneficial to all involved.

Myrna clear asked Corbin about the population and the council at large. She said is that something where the town could do its own census. Corbin said no this is done by statute, and it has to be the census that is done every 10 years. This is a law. Corbin added that they are encouraging the towns under 3,500 to not have districts any longer.

Ordinance 2022-09 was drafted by Corbin King's office to Abolish the Town Legislative Body Election Districts and Elect all Members of the Body at Large. This Ordinance was passed on December 27, 2022, signed by the town council, and filed with the Howard County Clerk within the 30 days that was required to get it done.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present and said he had no new business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

TIF Board – Ned Sutherland was present and said they are looking into a possible stand by generator for the community center for an emergency situation.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar was present with nothing new to report. Don Parvin said there is a meeting with contractors tomorrow at 10:00 am about the first phase of construction.

Don Parvin also said the locks at the interurban (#4 – new business) are hard to open. He is not sure why it is like this but would like to have the council consider fixing this. Pat Reel made a motion to get a quote from Kokomo Lock and Key about fixing this. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said they are still waiting on the Main Street lighting and hoping to have it done in March. We should know something about the Union Street sidewalks at the next meeting.

Fire Contract for 2023 – The fire contract was discussed at the special meeting on January 17th. It was decided that we needed to cut their amount to \$17,000.00 for this year due to budget constraints. We had to cut all line items including our police department by \$8,500.00.

Honey Creek ditch – Don Parvin and Pat Reel met with Rice Tree Company to see about getting Squirrel Creek cleaned out from Union to Liberty and Liberty to State Rd. 26. We are waiting on a quote from them.

The council voted on the Community Service Award and there was a tie between 2 people. Megan Reel was given the names to break the tie as to who should be on the Community Service Award. Megan said she had decided that Marcia Talbert would be the recipient for 2022.

Greg Landrum said he had gotten quotes to replace the heater that is in the maintenance building. King's Heating quote was \$4,690.00 for the same kind we have now. They also quoted a tube heater at \$6,620.00. He also got a quote from QPH, for the same kind we have now would be \$3,911.71. They said they did not recommend doing a tube heater as it is not insulated. Greg said he asked both companies if it could be removed and used somewhere else if we so choose, they both said yes. There was some discussion as to if we need to have heat out there, and how much they are working out there in the winter time. Paul indicated to Greg that it was not a ton of time in the winter months. Pat was concerned about freezing a plow truck up and being able to thaw it out. After further discussion they decided to put the heater on hold. Pat Reel made a motion to get a decent salamander heater in case they had to work on something or needed to have heat for something. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Erica Parvin was present and said Western Wrestling won the team state a couple weeks ago, been quite a few years since they won. She wanted to see about getting a team sign up as you come into town. The council discussed this saying that in the past the school bought the sign and the town provided the pole and the county drove the post and put it up. Don Parvin said there is an issue with the state putting it up on State Rd. 26. Erica asked about putting it up by the doctor's office where the others are. Council said it would be fine if the school will pay for the sign and we will get it put up.

Ned Sutherland was present and said there would be a circus at Western on February 25th to benefit Turnabout and Narrow Gate Horse Ranch. It will be held in both gyms, circus in one and carnival in the other.

Ned Sutherland asked about the contract work at the interurban. He wanted to know about finding a future proprietor to go into the building to figure out where parking would be, etc., to sustain it in conjunction with the construction. Don Parvin said this was a 3-phase project. There are certain things that need to be done before we can do that. The council has approved the design up to a certain point right now.

Myrna Claar said she would like to recognize Harlee Reel, Noble Mills, and Jr. Claar for their help with set up, serving, and tear down of the December meeting at the Community Center. They were a big help getting everything done.

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.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer