

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall – 5pm
December 26, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Jake Gibson
Corbin King was also present.

Myrna Claar gave prayer. Jake Gibson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said she had to have Jordan Buckley come and fix her computer after Comcast upgraded her modem. Nothing would work. Jordan said the internal router may need to be replaced, it was just a fluke that it happened at that time he thought. It probably needs replaced as it 7 years old. Not the whole computer, just the other workings of it. Megan said she asked Jordan to go ahead and put a quote together. Megan said we have in years past transferred money from General to Rainy Day, she said with a few issues with our budget, she would like not to do a transfer this year, but would like the council's thoughts. They agreed. Jake Gibson made a motion to not do a transfer of money from General to Rainy Day this year. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Myrna, and Pat voting for passage.

Megan said she also pulled some number for the community center to date in 2023. We had some issues with the sprinkler system that was about \$2,500.00 and a couple of other things with the website that were out of the normal realm of things, but with what we took in and what we paid out we lost about \$100.00. Megan said this is just an FYI.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson had left a written report.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said the Durango should be done being repaired Thursday. He plans to get the Tahoe in for new tires soon, hopefully it will then be ready for a reserve. Josh would like to get the hiring process going soon for a reserve. Jake Gibson asked

about the criteria for the reserves, and if there is a minimum number of hours they would be required to work. Josh said yes, it is listed on the app and 16 hours is minimum. Jake Gibson made a motion for Josh to start accepting applications as early as January 1st for a reserve. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

EMA Advisory – Pat Reel said EMA had gotten a new grass truck.

Fire Department – Jake Gibson said he had a good conversation with Landen Bartley and optimistic for future communication with them.

Health Department – Jake Gibson said they have new hours. Starting January 2nd, they will be open 7:30am – 5:00pm (M, W, Th, F) and 8:30am – 6:00pm (T).

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he and Don Parvin will be finishing up the easement paperwork this week.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable had no new business. Don Parvin said the Plan Commission still needs 1 new member for a replacement for 2024.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Roger Waddell said there was no new business to report. Don Parvin said the Board of Zoning still needs 2 new members for replacements for 2024.

TIF Board – Roger Waddell said they had a meeting scheduled for this Thursday. Don Parvin said the TIF Board still needs 1 new member for a replacement for 2024.

Historical Society – No one present to report.

Park and Tree Board – Megan Reel said she had talked to Jill. Jill stated the members and officers will stay the same as they are currently for 2024. Also, there was a bongo drum ordered as a replacement on the climbing structure in the Russiaville Town Park. There was a crack in the current one, and Craig has removed it until we get the new piece.

Don Parvin said he had met with Rick and Jill. They had asked about a donation to the playground fund from the town. Don would like the rest of the council to think about this and bring it to the meeting in January.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said he will talk about this at the end.

Property at 3949 S. 775 W. (south of cemetery) – The only quote that was received was from Rice Tree Company. They sent a quote in to clean up the property for max amount of \$16,000.00 and they have since dropped the quote to \$12,250.00. That is for cleanup of the property and taking the trailer out. Pat Reel said Greg Landrum talked to a couple other people but Rice's was the only quote we got in writing. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the quote for \$12,250.00 from Rice Tree Company. Jake Gibson seconded. Jake asked about where to take the funds from. There was some discussion about this. It was decided to take it from MVH storm drains if possible. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Myrna voting for passage.

Community Service Award for 2023 – There was some discussion about this, and Pat Reel made a motion to make Kent Milburn the person of the year for this award. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.

Turnabout – There was a letter written from Turnabout asking the town to donate \$1,200.00 for 2023 to them, that the council received before the meeting. Pat Reel said we do support what they are doing for our community, but if we can help them out with some funding as well, he feels that would be a good thing. Pat said that Megan had checked with SBOA, and they said Riverboat would be the place they could take it from. Pat Reel made a motion to donate \$1,200.00 out of the Riverboat fund for 2023, adding that this would be revisited on a yearly basis to see if we can donate in future years. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Myrna voting for passage.

2024 Fire Contract – Jake Gibson read the contract provided by Landen Bartley for January – December of 2024. The total for 2024 will be \$22,000.00, with the first installment being paid in June of 2024 in the amount of \$11,000.00 and the second in December of 2024 in the amount of \$11,000.00.

Jake added that Landen will provide the town with run stats, etc. for the Fire/EMS Department for 2023 sometime at the beginning of 2024, and then provide run stats, etc. every 6 months. He is looking forward to the council having a working relationship with them.

Jake Gibson made a motion to accept the fire contract in the amount of \$22,000.00 for 2024. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin wanted to back up to Dave Kieser. He expressed his frustration with the projects that have been started here in town. Don said his patience has grown thin and he will call a meeting in January with the council and Dave to talk about and get some of these projects moving and finished.

Don Parvin thanked all the council members and Corbin and everyone that is involved in this town on other boards, etc. to help maintain this town and do good things for us all. Don added that he would like to thank Myrna Claar for being on this council for the last 4 years. He said she has slowed him down a little bit thinking wise. She asked questions and had good ideas, and he found himself thinking about things a little more. Don knows that she loves this community, and is grateful to not only her but all the council members as they all do what is best for our town.

Myrna Claar said the last 4 years had been a great experience and she had learned so much. Myrna had mixed emotions about leaving but she knows the board will be in good hands and she will be around to see what's going on. It was an honor to work with each member of the council.

Don Parvin said he would like to back up to the TIF Board, adding that he knew Myrna was interested in TIF and had been coming to the meetings for a while. Pat Reel made a motion for Myrna Claar to replace Roger Waddell on the TIF Board effective January 1, 2024. Jake Gibson seconded. Myrna Claar abstained. Don Parvin voted in favor. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Don voting for passage.

Don Parvin would like to make progress for 2024. It will be challenging, but we will work together and get it done.

Pat Reel said he had been approached by someone and they would like to look at the Interurban for a possible business. Pat will meet with them tomorrow about this.

Pat also reminded the council that the swearing in ceremony would be January 1st at 11:00 am in Kokomo City Council Chambers.

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. Jake Gibson seconded, and the meeting came to an end at 5:39pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer