

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall – 5pm
February 26, 2024

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

Corbin King, attorney, was also present.

Ned Sutherland gave prayer. Jake Gibson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lori Seaman from the Russiaville branch library was present. She said the Gene Parks 5K walk/run was scheduled for April 13th. She would like to do a dance line from the library to the Lions Club, and would like the towns ok. The town was fine with it, and told her to get with Josh about the route of this and for the walk/run.

Lori also asked for some direction on the outdoor movies that they have at the library through the summer. She said during covid they waived all the fees for the movie licensing. This year they are implementing the fees again. It is \$400.00 for each time they show a movie. They are giving them a break and only charging the library \$200.00 each time for this year. However, this is something that the library has not budgeted for. Lori asked the council's thoughts on this for ways to fund the license fees, as movie nights are loved and attended by a lot of people. She said they have 6 movies each year. The town council discussed this. Pat Reel made a motion to sponsor the first month for the movie at the library for \$200.00 out of Riverboat. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Roger, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson asked if he could sponsor the next one on behalf of the Police Dept. The council said if he did it out of the donation fund that would be fine. Josh said he would like to do that. The council was ok with it.

Corbin King, Jake Gibson, and Ned Sutherland also said they would each sponsor a month for this. Lori was overjoyed as 5 of the 6 movies for the summer are sponsored.

Ned Sutherland said the carnival/circus at Western this past Saturday went well again this year, and they grossed around \$11,000.00.

The minutes from the January 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan added that the Annual Financial Report and year end are finished.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson had a written report. Craig had quote for a new land plane and quick hitch. This will attach to the John Deere tractor to be able to grade alleys better. The quote was for \$2,800.00. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the purchase of this equipment for \$2,800.00, and pay it out of MVH equipment appropriation. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Jake Gibson told Craig the roads looked good after the recent snow we had.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said the 5K walk/run that Lori was talking about is coming up and the baseball parade will be in April as well. He is taking reserve application until March 1st and then will start the process to hire one.

Public Safety – Nothing to report.

EMA Advisory – #3 on new business is the EMA Agreement for 2024. This is the same as it has been in years past. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the 2024 EMA Agreement. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Pat Reel asked the council about giving EMA a donation of some sort this year. There was some discussion. Corbin King said he would like to talk to the City of Kokomo and see what they do. Don Parvin said to table this until March, when we have that information.

Health Department – Nothing to report.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said the sidewalk easements are still being worked on. Corbin referenced #4 on new business – Public Meeting

requirements. He said he would like to look into this further before we do anything. Don Parvin said to table this until March, when we have that information.

The South Union sidewalk easements were discussed. There is someone that does not want to sign the easement paperwork to allow us to be able to put the sidewalks in on their property. This has been being worked on for a long time and the council said they are just trying to do it the right way. The town would like to be able to finish this project to help the properties affected look nice, boost the value of them, and make our community walkable and safe. Pat Reel made a motion to move forward with the south union sidewalk project for those who are ok with having a new sidewalk. Discussion started and Corbin King advised we need to second the motion and then have discussion. Jake Gibson seconded the motion. Marcheta Davis, a property owner that this sidewalk project affects, was present. She had some questions about the paperwork that she was given to sign for the easement, regarding planting, maintenance, and damage repair. Corbin made notes of these concerns, and apologized that he had to get to another meeting but said he would look at these and call her to discuss her concerns.

-Exit Corbin King

The council discussed this further, and decided they would move forward with what they could as they have the grant that they need to use by the end of July. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, Greg, and Roger voting for passage. The council thanked Marcheta for coming to the meeting and discussing this paperwork to understand what it said and meant. Corbin will make sure it is explained so that she understands what she is signing and is comfortable with it.

-Enter Corbin King

Corbin said he reread the paperwork in his car and explained all of Marcheta's concerns about it. Marcheta thanked Corbin for helping her to understand. Pat Reel added if anything gets tore up in the process of this, it will all be fixed. He knows Marcheta's house along there has steps, he reiterated if there is anything that gets damaged, it will all be put back, and made to look nice.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable said he had 3 permits – 1 for the demolition of the old grain elevator on Railroad St. – 1 for a new cement pad and generator at

the cell tower site on West St. – 1 for a shed at 496 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 he had talked to John Marley and he is willing to fill one of the vacant spots on the BOZ. Pat Reel made a motion to have John Marley fill this BOZ position. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, Jake, and Roger voting for passage. Don Parvin said they still needs 1 new member for replacement for 2024.

TIF Board – No one was present to report.

Historical Society – Roger Waddell just had a comment about the deck out side the old station that Dave Kieser sent a picture of down toward Indy. He said the deck was sharp.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present. Jill said community/senior day would be May 14th this year with a rain date of May 15th. They are still working on raising money for the playground project. They had a meeting with the DNR and the minimum grant that can be applied for now is \$250,000.00. They have raised this considerably because they do not have the manpower to do the work anymore. Therefore, they are working very diligently to raise the \$250,000.00 match to be able to apply for the 50/50 grant to fund this project. The fundraiser that was previously talked about to raise money for this project was given to the kids at Western and is due by March 1st.

Dave Kieser – Nothing new to report on.

Farmer's Market – Lexi Hunt was present and asked if the Farmer's Market could still use the lot behind (east) of the town hall building this year. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the Farmer's Market to use the lot again this year. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Bike Path - Jake Gibson has had a couple of meetings with grant writers about the trail that will come from Kokomo and go all the way to Frankfort. They are trying to get Howard and Clinton counties on board. Jake said he will keep talking with

them as this moves forward. There will be work to be discussed about the rail way, work on easements, and cost analysis. All this will help to keep Russiaville abreast of what is going on with the project as well.

Pat Reel said the old elevator at the south end of Liberty Street has been torn down and is mostly gone. They are working on filling in the pit underneath. He was sad to see the history go, but it was very unsafe and glad Mr. Salsbery got it torn down.

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 6:07pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer