

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
October 28, 2019

Council Present – Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt, and Pat Reel.
Corbin King, the town’s attorney was also present.

Don Parvin opened the meeting.
Don Parvin gave prayer and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from September meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable reported there was no new business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No one present to report.

TIF Board – No one present to report.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar was present and stated they had a gathering in September, and asked Megan to put the next meeting on the board for November 12th at 7:00pm at the annex building.

Pat Reel asked Jan about winterizing the annex building this year if they did not use it very much. Pat stated we are spending over \$1,000.00 a year to heat a building that does not get used. Jan said she understands this. Don asked if there was anything down there that would be damaged due to condensation etc. Jan said there are some computers, that would be her major concern. Megan asked if those could be moved. After they gather on the 12th this could be done. Pat Reel made a motion to winterize the annex building. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said they had their ribbon cutting ceremony for the walking trail. The partnered with American Health Network as they did “Walk with a Doc” at the same time. She said it went really

well, and was a nice day. She was surprised at how many people brought their dogs.

Jill stated the “van access” sign was installed. This was the last thing we had to do for the trail. There was a picture sent to the DNR, and they have now disbursed the rest of the funds for the trail.

Jill said they hired ABC Cleaners to deep clean the Community Center. She stated there had been some issues with this, that they are trying to work through. It has been a challenge to get it cleaned the way they think it should be for the money they are paying them. When she completed the things they asked, then they will ok it to be paid.

Jill said someone donated a blue spruce tree, and that has been planted at Western Heights pond.

Jill said they had an Eagle Scout who would like to put a volleyball court in at the Community Center park. He is a very responsible young man, and she told him that he would be responsible for all the fundraising. Jill said she told him that the town council nor the park board could put any money toward this project. She also told him he would have to present it to the council and get approval for this. Jill asked the council for their thoughts on this.

Rob Hewitt asked if it would be a sand volleyball. Jill said yes.

Don Parvin said we are limited to the amount of space we would have down there in the future. He said he is not opposed to this but wants them to think about the space with the other things they want to eventually put in there. Jill is unsure of how soon he would need to do this for his project.

Pat Reel asked Rick Homkes if there was area for this with what they are thinking for the future. Rick stated there were a couple of places that it could be done possibly. Rick said he would like to know the long-term usage of the tractor pull track area. Council discussed the tractor pulls, the cancellations of the ones from this past year, the safety issues when crossing the track, etc. Rob Hewitt made a motion to allow no more tractor pulls at the Community Center. Pat Reel seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this too. The motion carried with Rob, Pat, and Don voting for passage. Don Parvin said we would get the appropriate letters sent out.

Jill Newby said they had talked previously about having a candlelight walk around the trail, but have decided to postpone this until next year possibly.

Rick Homkes said the signs were supposed to be installed, but with the rain it has been postponed. Rick also feels that the anti-vandalism coating on the signs is

not sufficient. He is asking Clifford to put a plexiglass over the top of them. He is stressed about the vandalism we have already had at the trail, and wants to protect them the best he can. Don Parvin agreed with this.

Streets and Wastewater - Don Parvin said he and Craig had been working on the mileage for the town, and had found some things that were not quite accurate. Mileage for the town went from 6.578 to 7.862.

Don also stated the town has received the INDOT Community Crossings grant for the 4th year in a row in the amount of \$152,820.75. When we get this done next spring, every road in the town will have been paved.

Don Parvin said with the boards consent he will need to order more signs. These are signs that are faded and need to be replaced.

Don stated he and Pat had met to talk about the street lighting. This will be coming up. They are trying to get Duke Energy on board, but this takes planning and costing that they will need to work through.

Don Parvin asked Pat Reel if he could work on seeing if the county might be able to cut the trees of 4th street. Pat said he would look into it.

Don Parvin read a letter that Craig drafted to reduce illegal water connections into our wastewater system. Craig also sent a list of people the letter will need to go to with sump pumps and downspout connections.

Pat Reel made a motion to approve and send out the letter to the people that have been identified. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

Don Parvin said that Mike Collins has been on walnut patrol outside of the town hall.

Pat Reel said they hung a scent block in the south lift station in New London. Pat stated he had drove by it a few times and has not smelled sewage.

Pat Reel asked Mike Collins, who was present, about salt for the roads. Mike stated they had 1-1/2 skid. Pat also asked about snow plows and storm drains. Mike said they had gone over the snow plows last week, and the storm drains they are trying to keep clear with all the leaves that are falling. Don Parvin said to clarify about this drain by the town hall, it is a very slow-moving drain. If all

people that have a drain in from or near their house would help to keep them clear that would be helpful.

Marshal's Dept. – Randy Vannatter was present and gave written reports. Don Parvin asked Randy when could Jordan put the cameras in. Randy said we are next on his list, and that Jordan would get to it very soon. Don is just stressed about the vandalism at the trail and would like to catch who is tearing things up. Todd has been doing evening patrols through there regularly.

Todd Everling talked about hiring a new reserve, showing all degrees and transcripts. He has done a background check, and references. Todd has heard a lot of good things about not only about him, but his wife too. Todd spent some time at his house He lives pretty close too. Todd had very good things to say about this possible new reserve.

Don Parvin said he would like to schedule a meeting for the whole council to be able to talk to him. Don will let Randy know the date.

Randy Vannatter said he would like to bring Todd Everling on as paid part time. Randy would like make him a salary employee for \$100.00 per week. He has enough in the part time police appropriation for this year and next year, this way it is already budgeted. Don said he had talked to Jeff Lipinski about this too, and he would like to take this until the end of the year and talk about it again at that time.

Pat Reel made a motion to bring Todd Everling on to the Russiaville Police Dept. as paid part time with a salary of \$100.00 per week to be paid out of the part time police appropriation. This will be revisited as to where to take the money from after this year. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

The council thanked Todd for his work in town thus far.

Pat Reel told Carl Swan, who was present, that he did a nice job on the new 2019 Charger. Council had the chance to see it all done just before the meeting. It looks sharp.

Treasurer's report – Megan Reel gave a written report, she had nothing else to add.

Dave Kieser - Rick Homkes asked about what we have received from Mr. Kieser with what we have paid him as far as the money that has come out of the Historical Society. Don said he knows the \$5,000.00 is from a Community Foundation grant. Don wants to call an open meeting with Mr. Kieser to see where he is at with all these projects. Megan Reel stated there is still \$5,000.00 in the Historical Society account, but we have spent that much to Mr. Kieser to work on this grant. Pat Reel said that is why we want to winterize the annex, so we are not spending more money that the fund does not have to spend. Jan Koloszar said the grant money was to put HVAC in both buildings, that is why there was \$15,000.00 designated for this with the \$5,000.00 in grant money. Don Parvin said he is unsure where Mr. Kieser is at with all this, and if he has to have a separate meeting from the regular one for Mr. Kieser to attend to be able to answer some of these questions, that is what we will do. Rick Homkes said hopefully he can answer about the historical registry too, that he is supposed to have put the interurban on.

Rick Homkes added by saying the Community Foundation has now implemented “claw back clauses” on their grants. If you do not finish with an appropriate amount of time, they can claw back the grant funds.

Don Parvin said he would like to thank the park board for the ribbon cutting ceremony, they did a nice job setting all that up and putting it together. Don would also like to thank Dr. Nuss and Dr. Hoshaw and American Health Network.

New London Grant – Pat Reel said the blower pad is poured. That is all that has happened at this time.

Compensation for Ethel Morgan – The full council is not here and Don feels they should be to discuss this.

Ordinance 2018-11 Traffic and parking ordinance – Don Parvin read through a few points that would be at the Marshal’s discretion. If there is a special event or something of that nature. Rob Hewitt made a motion to pass ordinance 2018-11 on the third and final reading. Pat Reel seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Rob, Pat, and Don voting for passage. Randy Vannatter asked if this would be in effect now. Corbin King said this would need to be published in the paper, and after 30 days it would be enforceable.

Randy Vannatter would like the curbs to be painted especially on the curves in Western Heights where there is to be no parking. Pat Reel made a motion to pass get the curbs that need painted like Marshal Vannatter would like done. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

Fireworks Ordinance # 2019-02 was introduced. Rob Hewitt made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-02 on the first reading. Pat Reel seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Rob, Pat, and Don voting for passage.

Heroes for Warmth 5k – This is a 5k they had last year in town and would just like the ok to use our streets again this year. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the Heroes for Warmth 5k to use the streets this Saturday Nov. 2nd. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

A quick break was taken. The meeting resumed.

Council member Kyle Parvin entered the meeting.

Ordinance 2019-03 budget adoption – Rob Hewitt made a motion to adopt budget for 2020 with ordinance 2019-03. Kyle Parvin seconded. Pat Reel abstained. Don Parvin voted in favor of Ordinance 2019-03 adopting the 2020 budget, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

Steven D. Jackson from 312 N. Union St. was present to discuss replacing his sewer lateral. Mr. Jackson is having constant problems with it either be collapsed or he had tree roots. Don Parvin said he spoke to Craig Thompson, Wastewater Superintendent, today about this matter. If you are going to replace your lateral, there is no issues with that. There is a \$1,000.00 tap fee, but since you are an existing owner, and if you do everything correctly and the old lateral is sealed, and supervised we would waive the tap fee. They must meet the requirements and specifications of the superintendent for this to be waived. Don said they need to get with Craig Thompson before they start this to make sure everything

gets done correctly. Rob Hewitt said he thinks this will be a very deep sewer lateral, at least 14'.

Pat Reel made a motion to waive the \$1,000.00 tap fee for Steven D. Jackson for the property at 312 N. Union St. as long as all the requirements are met. Rob Hewitt seconded. Don Parvin voted in favor of this as well, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

Wes Miller and Sebi Breedlove from Earth Surface Solutions were present with Mr. Jackson and asked if the Town cameras their sewers. Council said they have, but not regularly. They asked how long it had been since this particular line had been cameraed. Don Parvin said that would be a question for Craig Thompson.

Josh Walden was present and asked if the town has ever considered helping out the local retail stores during the holidays to get people out here to shop. He is thinking some kind of advertising to get people to come to Russiaville to shop. Signage or TV commercials. He is just throwing this out there and hoping maybe in the future for the holidays we could think about this.

Council asked Mr. Walden how things were in Honey Creek Hills.

He stated they were quiet and peaceful right now, so that is good.

Don Parvin told Mr. Walden to make sure the people in the subdivision need to get a permit if they put up any kind of structure, fence, building, etc.

Rick Homkes asked if there could be something put on the sign about not raking leaves into the road. Megan Reel said there are several people that do not know they can take their leaves during business hours to the wastewater plant.

Rick Homkes said they had about 180 visitors at the community center for the craft fair, and everything went pretty well for their first time.

Rick Homkes thanked the Russiaville Police Dept. for what they did for the State troopers funeral. Don Parvin mentioned Peter Steven's father in law was a deputy here in Russiaville for several years.

Randy Vannatter said they had started a Facebook page for the police department.

Don Parvin said they met in April with Steve Jones about the sign issue at the corner of Seward and Union streets. Mr. Jones agreed to move the sign at that time but it is still there. Don Parvin said Corbin will have to work on this. Don will call Corbin in the morning to see about the progression of this. Megan stated there is someone every week that asks why that sign is still up. People have lost patience with this issue. Corbin will send a letter.

Pat Reel asked Todd Everling if Greentown had leaf pickup. Todd said yes, people bag them up and the town workers come by on a certain day of the week and pick them up. Don asked if there was a certain time frame during the year that they did this. Todd was unsure of that, it gets added to the bill, and they can put the leaves out. Megan Reel said leaf pick-up here in town is something that the towns people ask about regularly this time of year.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, and no more comments from council or guests, the claims were presented and approved. Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer