

Town of Russiaville, In
Regular Town Council Meeting
August 18, 2014

Present for the meeting were President Jeff Lipinski, Vice President Don Parvin, Council Members Cindy Aeschliman, Rob Hewitt, Greg Landrum, and Town Attorney Corbin King. Prayer was offered and the Meeting opened with a special item concerning the trash service for New London. Letters were sent to each resident asking their opinion on the service under the contract the Town currently has with Waste Management. Vice President Don Parvin explained the contract we currently have. He also stated that we need to hear from more residents. Very few residents responded and five are present for this meeting. The consensus of those present was positive. Attorney Corbin King stated that it may be handled through an interlocal agreement with the County. President Jeff Lipinski stated that the Council's goal is and has always been to help the residents of New London. When Russiaville took over the operation of the New London Wastewater Facility at the County's request it was a large favor to the County. Corbin King stated that it seems to be a no brainer but we need to have a majority of the residents on board. The residents present were requested to talk with their friends and neighbors and the aim is to have a decision by the time plans are made for the new contract for 2015.

The Regular Meeting was then opened with the presentation and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Greg Sheline, the Howard County Executive Director of the Kokomo-Howard County Plan Commission, was present with the Howard County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Resolution for Council consideration. President Jeff Lipinski presented the Resolution #2014 – 4 to the Council. After a short discussion, motion to pass was made by Don Parvin and seconded by Greg Landrum. The resolution passed unanimously and was signed by the Council. A copy was made for Mr. Sheline.

Howard County Sheriff Steve Rogers and Deputy Jerry Asher were present to request approval to upgrade the radio equipment that is currently on Russiaville's water tower. The upgrade will enhance the operation of communication. It is a Project 25 System from Motorola. Russiaville will not be charged. A twelve foot by sixteen foot building will house the generator. Rob Hewitt asked if it would interfere with the equipment Steve Jones has installed on the tower. It was noted that it will not. There will be a triangular antenna and the location of the structure is yet to be determined but will probably be behind the garage. Motion was made by Rob Hewitt and seconded by Don Parvin to approve the request. The motion carried.

Discussion on regulating golf carts. Preparing an ordinance regulating them as to lights, signals, age of drivers and street access was discussed. Jeff Condo was present to express his concern with carts on the state highway.

Josh Welch was present for the Park & Tree Board. They would like to use a portion of the Parks Estate funding that is available to purchase an indestructible basketball goal for the park and strip the half court. The goal will cost about \$1,599. Motion was made by Greg Landrum to approve the requests and seconded by Don Parvin. The motion carried. Josh stated that Dave Snyder repaired some water leaks. Affordable Locksmith needed to be called about securing the storage center. A new bench is in the Brady Park area. A second bench will be placed at the half court. Nine picnic tables were purchased and placed in the park and at the Community Center Park. Spraying the weeds is needed and the tree watering is continuing thanks to the efforts of Zach Parvin and Rick Homkes. Two trees have been damaged by the mower and a gum tree was damaged during the tractor pull. There are two trees that

are bathtubbing. The IDNR Neighborwood program has nine more trees for Russiaville. Don Parvin stated he would like to see a program in place that says every tree cut down is replaced.

Rhiannon Thompson was present for the Summer Fest Committee. She requested that the area for the tractor pull be allowed to stay in place to hold more of the events during the year. This could bring in funding to assist the summer fest and the Community Center with garden tractor pulls, horse pulls and antique tractor pulls. It is an area that is three hundred feet by 30 feet. Greg Landrum stated he cannot vision that as a permanent part of the landscape. Jeff Lipinski stated we have challenged them to make money and this looks like a good opportunity to do that. Don Parvin approves but questioned the parking situation. Rob Hewitt asked if it would interfere with the Community Center use. Josh Welch stated we have plans for

A beautiful area and don't like the looks of the dirt piles out the back door. Mike Barger, a Russiaville resident running for County Commissioner and a member of the Summer fest Committee, stated that the event was well attended at the Summer fest and that is a why it is looked at as a good fundraiser. Greg Landrum stated he will need to process the information. It was noted that the piles of dirt will be removed if it is a permanent fixture. Rick Homkes would like the dirt stockpiled for our use if this is done. Don Parvin believes it may be a good fundraiser but more information is needed. Rhiannon Thompson stated the festival date has been changed back to the original weekend in June. The festival attendance was down and the change in date may help. They are looking at a new plan for setting up the festival that will make a loop and make events more accessible. The electricity is another issue they are addressing. Additional power supplies in different places are needed. Greg Landrum stated it was a well planned festival and he was surprised at the lack of attendance. He believes small festivals may be a dying breed. Rhiannon Thompson stated that they had a good attendance last year. Jeff Lipinski stated it was a good decision to move the date. Rick Homkes asked about the profit and Rhiannon stated they have about \$3,500 to start next year. The venders' profits were down because of attendance and because of the local food events that were well attended. Don Parvin stated that communications is an important part of the process. He believes that we need to continue to have the festival and give it as much help as possible. The electricity situation needs to be investigated.

A. J. Humerickhouse was present for Water, Wastewater and Streets. The Wastewater plant is operating well. A lift station at New London is not working. Fluid Waste may need to be call to pump it down to identify the problem. NIPSCO hit a water main. The Kubota tractor has a bent bracket and the scagg mower hit a valve box and is in for repair. A.J. has received a bid from a company to maintain our generators and \$1,079.72 yearly. They will come twice a year and let us know what needed. All the generators except one are turned on weekly except for New London He would also like to see some different testing equipment. Jeff stated that he thought we upgraded during the plant upgraded. This will be investigated. A.J would like to consider a DR2800 for ammonias and a separate DO and PH Meter. Don Parvin asked about flushing. It is scheduled for this week. A. J. would like to see the number of keys reduced. The cost would be \$788 to rekey the majority of the locks. The vac truck is at Davidson's for repair of a hydraulic leak. A new chain saw is needed and the concrete saw needed. Repairs of the soffit on the garage door are needed and a well supplied tool box would be an asset. Cement work on sidewalk, town hall accesses, installation of benches and repair of storm drain was approved by the Council. The work will be done by E J ONeal.

Chris Collins has asked about opening the alley access at his residence. Rob Hewitt suggested it would be advisable to speak with the residents on the alley to get their opinion. It was noted that street patching and Honey Creek Hills is in need of street work.

Roger Waddell presented the Police Department's Report. He noted that the Town is being reimbursed for the loss of property from theft at the Wastewater Plant last June. The person responsible is doing so as part of the judgment against him. Roger was told to destroy the evidence but it has been determined that will not be done because it is a very large roll of copper wire.

Golf carts were again up for discussion. Jeff Condo stated he came close to hitting one on 26 Saturday night. Corbin King quoted traffic code 9132196 which stated they are not to be on public streets. If we pass an ordinance allowing them with certain regulations then we alter the law and may become liable. Jeff stated he has no issue with not passing an ordinance but doesn't want kids on them. Roger Waddell stated that they did stop kids from being stupid but we have a choice to either do nothing legally or pass an ordinance. Some small towns do have regulations, but Corbin King stated that the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns suggests doing nothing because any legal action might make the Town liable if something happens. Lawn mowers and moped do not fall under this category. It was suggested that more thought needs to go into this before we proceed. Greg Landrum stated he is not in favor of regulating golf carts because it may open up a can of worms. Corbin stated communities take different approaches. It is the vague interpretation that scares police and town attorneys.

Corbin King stated that as far as the State Board of Accounts is concerned any investment of funds by a municipality must mature in two years or less.

Jeff Lipinski was given authorization to sign the current FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assn.) paperwork.

The alley closing off South Union Street will require notification of all surrounding property owners and an advertisement in the paper. The hearing on the closing will be scheduled for the next Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 15th.

Updated street lights will be put on a back burner because of the expense.

Jeff Lipinski and Don Parvin will meet to work up figures on the wastewater rate increase.

Don Parvin would like to see a special event next year recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Palm Sunday tornado that destroyed Russiaville. Anyone interested in helping with these plans can talk with Don or leave their name and number at the Town Hall.

Don noted that at the Colts game August 23 the Masonic Lodges will be participating in ceremonies during the Colts game August 23. Don and his family will have the honor of present for the ceremony.

Paperwork for Howard County Emergency Management was signed by Jeff on motion made by Cindy Aeschliman and seconded by Rob Hewitt.

Cameras will be addressed next month.

There being no further business, claims were presented and approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Linda Downey, Clerk Treas.