

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall – 5:00pm
June 26, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, Greg Landrum, and Jake Gibson.

Corbin King, the town's attorney was also present.

Myrna Claar said a prayer, and Greg Landrum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Parvin said we need to start with attorney comments as Corbin has to leave and get to another meeting. Corbin said he has asked Megan to see how Mr. Rutherford would like the property deeded, and then he will be able to complete this.

Corbin said he also gave Megan the number for the title company to coordinate a closing time for the Clements property. Megan will get this set up and get it taken care of.

Corbin also had the Resolution for Davidson. Resolution 2023-03 Establishing a Revolving Fund, Approving Certain Related Matters. This will be money paid out of the EDIT Fund. This has been going on for quite some time, stemming back from when the Functional building was purchased from the town. Pat Reel made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-03. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Exit Corbin King.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said that a resident asked if there was anything in place to where we could give a discount for overpaying on your wastewater bill. She said she told the resident we did not but would bring it up in this board meeting. Don Parvin said last he checked you can't give discounts on that per the SBOA (State Board of Accounts). There was some further discussion on the matter, and Don Parvin asked if the council would like to pursue this. Pat Reel made a motion to keep things the way they are and

not pursue giving customers credit on their wastewater bills for overpayment. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Megan Reel also reminded everyone that there will be a special meeting on July 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm for the budget.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and had a written report. Craig said we had to buy a new pump for the Honey Creek Hills lift station. Jake Gibson asked if it would be worth it to send off the old pump for repair as a backup. Craig said to repair the pump was \$8,300.00 and to repair the existing was about \$8,100.00, so not really, we were better off just getting the new one. Craig said the manway on the vac truck is rotted and in need of repairing. Craig got a quote from Central Industrial Contractors to cut the old one out and put in a new one for \$10,436.00. Craig added in our bid/quote that was put together for the future wastewater plant, a new vac truck was added into it. He said it would be in a lot better shape if we get this done and it could be removed from the cost of the wastewater plant. It was about \$250,000.00 if he remembers correctly. Pat Reel made a motion to approve the quote and get the vac truck fixed, adding that the new plant is still to far down the road and it is to the point where it is not usable for Craig at this point. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Pat Reel said he would like stone put around the pavilion at the park. It has been sprayed out so far now that if it rains at all it is just a muddy mess. At the community church service and cookout yesterday, it was very messy.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said there were 3 branches tore off the tree closest to the town hall by the alley in the park. He knows who did it and has talked to the parents of the 2 kids that did this. He would like to know what the action the council would like to take. Josh said he did a report so that it is documented. There were also deep marks made in the tree with some kind of hatchet/machete. Josh was not able to tell who did this from the cameras. Don said he is tired of the kids getting by with tearing stuff up and having no repercussions. There was discussion about replanting the tree and having the kids each pay half. Josh asked if the tree would die from the deep cuts that have occurred. Rick Homkes said the limbs could be trimmed and would

probably be ok. The cuts are deep but possibly will heal itself. Josh said he cannot prove who cut the tree, only the limbs. Don Parvin said since we cannot prove who did the cutting and from what Rick is saying, if the tree branches were just broke off, the tree may be ok. He said is it right making these boys pay \$700 for a new tree if they aren't that made the deep cut marks in it. Pat Reel made a motion for the 2 young men that broke the branches off the tree to come to a council meeting and publicly apologize for it as long as the parents are ok with this. In the very least a letter of apology. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage. Jake Gibson said there could be community service if parents are willing to reach out to probation without charges. Jake asked Josh to tell the parents about this and connect them with probation if that is what they would like to do.

Josh Fulkerson said that Carl Swan had fixed the Charger. The bike rodeo had a good turnout. There were 106 kids that came. This is exactly double of what they had last year. They gave away 21 bikes.

Josh Fulkerson said we have a peddlers/solicitor's ordinance, but there isn't anything in there as punishment, or anything in there for them as law enforcement as consequences for not getting a permit or causing issues. Don Parvin said we can amend the ordinance to include this.

Josh Fulkerson said there was an accident not too long ago at 920 W. and 500 S., and they are doing several requests for body cam videos, pictures, etc. He had an ordinance to update our policy on request from others for public access records such as copying and duplication fees. This accident has brought up a lot record requests and knowing we can't change the past but this will help going forward. Pat Reel made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance Establishing Certain Copying/Duplication/Certification Fees to be Imposed on the first reading. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson said the Tahoe is at Erik's Chevrolet. It needs some A/C work that they have quoted at \$1,500.00. Pat Reel suggested recharging it and seeing how long it will last and go from there. Josh said he is ok with that at this point.

Josh Fulkerson had a request for service pistol change. He asked that the council consider this with the information he has provided. Don Parvin said at one point the Marshal's Dept. had come to the board wanting to change, so that the county's mags and our mags would be interchangeable. Josh said that was previous administration that asked for the change on that. He agreed that would be one of the cons to changing to a different kind of pistol. They would not be able to use the county's mags if the pistol change out were approved. He has talked to Carl about this and done some research, they both really prefer a Glock. Josh said there is some cost to it. With trade in it would cost just under \$3,000.00. This would be 4 pistols, 4 sites, and 5 holsters + additional mags. The council would like to table this for now to be able to look at everything Josh has put together and be able to ask questions if they have any.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department – Jake Gibson asked Megan if she had received any reports. She stated she has not. Jake said as far as he has considered it there has been no fire runs/ambulance runs from the fire department since January 1, 2023. He sees the fire truck has not been out of the town hall as of yet. It was supposed to be done by today, and that was after a week extension.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said there is nothing new to report.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable said he had written 2 permits. One for a pool, deck, and fence at 372 N. Union St. and the other for a garage addition and room addition at 449 N. East St.

Board of Zoning Appeals – There was no new business.

TIF Board – Mark Fulk said they have had a couple of meetings and had been looking at the parcel numbers here in town. There are some businesses that have been missed on the TIF and the Economic Development. They would like to go back to the original engineers and get the number all straight. They would like the council's permission to use TIF funds to update this and get it corrected with the original engineers and Umbaugh, and get the funds back into our control and not someone else's. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the TIF Board to do this.

Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Mark Fulk said they got the signs approved, and got the ½ down paid to get them started. There are some permits that need to be filled out but he will get that done.

Historical Society – Nothing new to report.

Park and Tree Board – Rick Homkes was present and said they are still working on funding for the playground at the Community Center Park. They are ½ way to their goal of \$250,000.00, this includes the pledge from the Community Foundation. This will allow them to be able to apply for the state grant for the other \$250,000.00 that it will take to complete the project.

Rick Homkes feels there should be more cameras added in the park to get all angles. Don Parvin said this had been approved. It has been about 4 months and it is still not done. Don asked Josh Fulkerson to find out if Jordan was going to be able to do this, and we would appreciate if he can get to it soon as we are having issues. Josh will talk to Jordan.

Pat Reel asked about getting cheap, flat rubber bases for the kids to use instead of using the trees. He said the kids play every day. Craig said there some on Amazon.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said he had talked to Dave earlier and he reported that we got environmental clearance from the state historic preservation. It was due on July 30th, but Dave had submitted and was already notified of the clearance. We received the \$99,000.00 grant that was applied for through RBDG (Rural Business Development Grants) for the second phase of the Interurban Station. The sidewalk projects are moving forward, a couple issues are being straightened out and hopefully we will be able to get it bid out soon.

Construction on Phase 1 of the Interurban Station is almost done. Pat Reel said the water and sewer line down there has been jetted and everything is good. We can hook right in to what was there.

Community Center Alcohol Contract – Don Parvin said he would like to revisit whether to have alcohol or not at the Community Center. He understands that

we have voted on this previously, but he is having reservations about it. He would like to know this boards wishes about allowing alcohol. He asked for the council members who were in favor of the alcohol at the Community Center to signify by saying I. Greg Landrum and Jake Gibson were in favor. Pat Reel and Myrna Claar were opposed to having alcohol. Don Parvin said he was also opposed to this. He just felt it is not a good idea, especially with ball park and a lot of kids close. The alcohol at the Community Center has been changed back to not being able to have it there, and therefore the contract does not need to be written.

Greg Landrum asked about there being alcohol bottles in the trash after a rental. Don Parvin said that the rules say alcohol is not allowed, and therefore if they have it and something happens it is on them as they have signed the contract that says they cannot. This way the town is not liable. There was some more discussion and Greg Landrum said he was just being the devil's advocate on this, saying it didn't make a difference either way. That is Greg's opinion, but he said he is a little bit more of a liberal thinker than the majority of Russiaville. Don Parvin agreed, saying he's known that for a long time.

Street Lights on College and Walnut – Pat Reel said he met with Josh Marion from Duke Energy about possibly putting in some new lights in a couple of dark areas here in town. After talking to the people where the light would be on Walnut Street, they do not want the light pole and street light put up. They are fine with it being dark. Pat Reel made a motion for there to be NO new street light on Walnut Street per the resident's request. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

On College Street there will be a new pole and light by the east corner of 225 E. College St. and one between 320 and 340 E. College St. Pat Reel said there would be shields put on them to where they are blocking the street side of the light so they are not throwing lights across the street into someone's house. There is a one-time charge of \$282.86 and then of course monthly charges for the power. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the 2 new light poles and street lights on College Street. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he is still working on trying to get the 20 lights changed that we missed when Duke Energy changed them to LED. Also waiting on covers on some of them.

Megan Reel asked if it was ok to put the TIF Board on the website. It is a board just like the Plan Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. The council said yes, it is all public record.

Megan Reel read a thank you card from Jada Sceggell, thanking the town for allowing her to do her raised bed project here at the town hall. Don Parvin said it looks nice out there. Megan Reel agreed and said she has had a lot of nice comments.

Ned Sutherland was present and said they had the Community Church Service and Cookout yesterday. It went very well, they thought there were about 150 people there.

This Wednesday, RCO will be taking an excursion to Connor Prairie.

July 22, 2023 at 2 pm, RCO will be going to the Peru Amateur Circus, they are looking for people to go.

July 26th from 6-8 pm there will be a block party for Turnabout. It is a party to break the stigma, to let people know it is there, to let people to know others care and care about this community. There will be several businesses involved. It is between the Turnabout parking lot and up the alley to the bank parking lot. It will be blocked off from Fire Pizza drive thru to the bank drive thru.

Bob from Amvets was present. He said they are partnering with Turnabout for the block party and at the table at the Howard County Fair. Amvets next meeting will be July 19th instead of the week before due to the fair.

Paul Drazich was her from Turnabout and said that he was asked about after hours counseling. He shared his number with the Marshal and others. Call him any time.

Darlene Homkes was present from the Lions Club. She stated that there was a ramp installed on the south double doors, this will help with wheel chairs and the like. Greg asked about the little pad of cement that was poured at the Lions Club.

Darlene said it was an Eagle Scout project. It is a ceremonious burn pit for retired or unserviceable flags. There is also a receptacle outside down there for people to put them in until they can be properly disposed of.

Pat Reel said he would like the town hall to have a receptacle such as this for another place for people to be able to take their retired flags. The council was fine with Pat working on this for the town hall.

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 6:12 pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer