

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall
June 21, 2021

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Jeff Lipinski said prayer. Pat Reel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from May 2021 were approved.

Plan Commission – Megan Reel stated that Mike Kanable had left her a report of one permit issued to Dave Britton for a room addition.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business

TIF Board – Jeff Lipinski addressed Rick Homkes and said the council may be approaching the TIF Board soon with some ideas that they have within the next 30-60 days possibly. Jeff knows they have some things they are thinking about as well.

Historical Society – Megan Reel said Jan Koloszar had called her and said she had nothing new to report on.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby said they had finished sorting all the bottle caps, saying they are about 10 pounds short of 1200 pounds. They have ordered six 4-foot benches, one picnic table, and 1 toddler picnic table. They are hoping to get all these hauled to the place and have them done in July.

Jill said Travis Wunderlich Landscaping had given them the best estimate of \$8,880.00 for doing the brick project in the circle by the iron wheel sculpture, and they liked his design. This can be done by the end of July.

Rick Homkes said there is about \$385.00 left from the Art and Signage Grant. They will be spending this on signage and dedication plaques for the iron wheels, crane soul, train, and pavilion. That should use it up, but if there is any left, they

will use it for the stone that would go into the brick circle project. This will get the grant done and they will be able to get the final report sent in to the Community Foundation.

Rick Homkes said there was an issue with the older kids and their language, therefore it is hard for people to bring their little kids there because of all the swearing, etc. Rick said that the park rules do not have anything about language in the park. He would like to amend the park rules to include bad language. Josh and Carl said that it is an issue. They feel there is not as much for the older kids to do. There is not a lot that can be done at this point.

Jeff Lipinski said that the council received an email from Darlene Homkes in representation of the Russiaville Lions Club. They are working on trying to renovate the bathrooms, and have reached out to the town for financial support. Jeff said he was going to meet with the county in the next couple of days to see if they would possibly be able to support some of the project as well.

Don Parvin asked about a time frame on this. Rick said they were still waiting on some other bids for it so there was not a huge hurry. Don Parvin talked to Dave Kieser about this, and has sent the one bid and design they have received to him for a possible grant.

Streets and Wastewater – Paul Sattler was present and did not have anything to report. Don Parvin said when Craig is back, they would do some spraying and painting the curbs. Pat Reel said he has noticed some low hanging limbs that are blocking street signs. He would like them to drive around and see if there are any that could be trimmed. Pat Reel told Rick Homkes there was a limb at his house hanging down right in front of the 20-mph speed limit sign. Rick said he would get that one taken care of tonight. There are also some street signs that could use some repair. Don Parvin said he had talked to Craig about the signs and they are going to have to look at some different type of brace for some of them.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and said the new Durango was outside if anyone would like to see it. They are still waiting on the equipment. Josh introduced "Max." Max is a dog that was given to Carl by an older lady that felt that she could not take care of him. He is 10-month-old Belgian Malinois, and very high energy. Carl has been working with him for the past few months and he has come a long way. Marshal Fulkerson would like to propose to allow Carl to

continue to train this dog as a narcotics drug dog and a tracker. He is asking the council to allow Carl to put the cage back in his car to be able to train the dog correctly. Marshal Fulkerson has seen the progress Carl has made with Max and thinks he will be a good asset for Russiaville's PD. Carl said it will still take quite a while to get him to where he is ready. He would need a drug certification when he is through training. Hopefully Max can become part of the Russiaville PD one day. If he doesn't "cut the mustard" then they will not pursue it any farther, but he feels that he will be very good.

Carl said he recently took him to the library and they read a book to the kids. It was a big hit, and the kids loved him.

Don Parvin said he thinks we should put insurance on Max just in case. Don also feels that the town should pick up the regular vet bills, as Max will be in training to become a K-9 for the town.

Don Parvin made a motion to allow Max to come to work with Carl for training purposes only at this time, that we allow the cage to be put in the car, the dog will be put on our insurance, the regular vet bills to be provided by the town, and the dog food be paid for by the town. Don Parvin asked Corbin if we needed to do a lease at this time. Corbin King will look into this and let us know. Greg Landrum seconded the motion, and it carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Treasurer's Report – A written report was given. Megan Reel said it was brought to her attention that in the April minutes there was a motion made to allow the Farmer's Market in town behind the town hall on the parking lot, and run every second Tuesday June 13th through October 10th. It should have said every second Sunday. The motion was said correctly, she just put Tuesday in there instead of Sunday when she was typing it.

Don Parvin made a motion to fix this error in the April minutes in these minutes. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Greg Landrum asked how the Farmer's Market went. It was said that it went very well. There were a lot of people here, and some of the vendors ran out of product, and the food trailer ran out of food too. It was a good time.

Don Parvin said he had gotten an estimate for rip rap for the corner of SR 26 and West St. It is eroding by the bridge on the north side, and on the south side by

the Dollar General it is difficult to mow because of the grade and looks weedy and bad all the time. Don had an estimate from Davidson Excavating for \$12,885.00, and one from Bowyer Excavating for \$15,500.00.

Greg Landrum asked if this was something from the sidewalk project or when they put in the Dollar General that was not completed. Pat Reel said that those projects were completed and was a different matter.

Don Parvin made a motion to allow Davidson Excavating to do the rip rap work for \$12,885.00. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin had a quote from Davidson Excavating not to exceed \$7,900.00 for materials and labor to install the drinking fountain, that was purchased for us by the county commissioners, in the Russiaville Town Park. Don tried to get more bids, but no one wanted to do the project. The town workers will install the water line.

Pat Reel made a motion to allow Davidson Excavating to install the water fountain. Greg Landrum seconded. Myrna Claar asked where we would pay for this from. The council looked at the appropriation report and thought possibly from bituminous. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Jill Newby asked where the water fountain would go. Don Parvin said it would be next to the new sidewalk that went in by the big "Christmas" tree. Don said that he, Craig, and Rick picked the best spot for the water line and the drinking fountain to be placed.

Jeff Lipinski said we were awarded \$95,000.00 from RBD (Rural Business Development) to do sidewalks down the west side south Union St. The towns match will be \$25,420.00. Our match will come from the Rainy-Day fund. We will do a walk through like we did on the W. Main St. project to make sure it is what we want.

Don Parvin had an agreement from Duke Energy for the lighting project on Main Street. This is for the decorative lighting, 18 lights and poles and 10 lights on existing poles. Don said he had worked on this and got the cost reduced considerably. Don explained the way the lights would be and how they would look. Pat Reel said one way they got the cost down; they are driven poles instead

of sitting on a cement pad. Jeff Lipinski said this will enhance the town. Don Parvin and Jeff Lipinski have a meeting on Friday with Donnie Alexander from Duke Energy, and John Ellison from Kieser Consulting. Don would like the council to give himself and Jeff authority to deal with this and make a decision on this as the cost is going up soon and they need to lock it in. Myrna Claar made a motion to give Don Parvin and Jeff Lipinski the authority to deal with this matter and make decisions accordingly.

Don Parvin added that the council needs to decide on the term in which to pay for this as there is more to it and he does not want to do it in one lump sum. The council discussed and thought a 5-year term would be ok for \$1,893.74 per month. Pat Reel seconded Myrna's motion with agreement of paying for it over a 5-year period for \$1,893.74, pending verification from Duke Energy that we are looking at this and understanding it correctly.

Greg Landrum asked after the 5-years who maintains the lights. Don said Duke Energy would, we will pay a maintenance cost of \$86.80 after the 5-years is done. Don will clarify this with the Duke Energy rep on Friday too.

The motion carried with Myrna, Pat, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin also had 3 quotes for the boring for the lighting project on Main St. Berry-It was \$61,375.00, L J Z Excavating was \$26,125.00, and J&J Electric was \$47,158.00. They will have to go under Duke Energy's specs.

Pat Reel made a motion for the council to allow Don and Jeff to look into this for clarification and be able to make a decision after meeting with Duke Energy.

Myrna Claar is concerned that L J Z Excavating is quite a bit less than the other two. Don Parvin said all 3 of the companies were sent the same specs. He said they were going to meet with them and make sure we are "comparing apples to apples" and then most likely we would go with L J Z. That is what we need to make sure. Pat Reel thought possibly the big difference was the hydrovacating.

Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin said all the changes have been made to the personnel policy and Corbin King has reviewed it. Don Parvin made a motion to accept the personnel policy. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage. We all cheered as this has been 3 years in the making.

ABC Insurance – Megan Reel recently met with Ryan from Patriot Insurance to go over everything on the policy. Don Parvin made a motion to stay with current agent. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Health Insurance – Megan Reel said she obtained a quote from IPEP. This would increase \$56,000.00 more than we are paying now. With our current plan it will go up \$6,700.00. Don Parvin made a motion to stay with the health insurance we currently have with a \$6,700.00 increase. Greg Landrum seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Don, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

A budget meeting will be set for July 14, 2021 at 4:00 pm to discuss and get ready for the 2022 budget.

Don Parvin would like permission to contact Rice Tree Co. about some trees on Union Street that possibly need trimmed. Council is fine with that.

Don Parvin said he was looking into possible leaf pick up. He will meet with Rice Tree Company about this soon, and hopefully by fall have a plan together if we can make it happen.

Roads and Alley – tabled for now – this is tied up with a grant.

Sean Smith present at the meeting would like to thank the town and the police department for the enhanced police presence in town, it is nice to see. He and his neighbors appreciate it.

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. Myrna Claar seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President
Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer