

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall – 5:00pm
May 22, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum.
Corbin King, the town's attorney was also present.

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

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said she had received the fire contract for 2023 with Landen Bartley's signature on May 13th.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and had a written report. Pat Reel said he had already talked to Craig about #3 on new business, and it will be taken care of between Craig and Jake.

Craig said the senior class did a good job this year. Jill Newby said they had 120 seniors that came from Western School and helped this year. Jill said thank you to the town and Craig and Paul for all their help. She also thanked the Amvets for helping the seniors put the flags out at the Russiaville and New London cemeteries this year. Thank you to the First Baptist Church for the meal they prepared for all of them.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said he had asked at the last meeting if he could look into doing a food truck day at the park area for the town. He said Tiffany Fulkerson had checked into this and found some that would like to participate in it. Josh would like to ask for approval for September 22nd to be able to do this from 4-6 pm. They would coordinate with the library on this and have dessert vendors at the library. This is also the bonfire and band night at the library from 6-8 pm. Pat Reel made a motion to approve September 22nd for them to do the food trucks at the park. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Josh also wanted to let people know that Carl and Lori from the library were coordinating the bike rodeo for this year. It will be held at the library June 10th from 11 am – 1 pm.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department – Don Parvin said, as Megan stated previously, the contract was signed and received back from the fire department. Don also said we have things that we are parking outside, the fire truck that is in the back of the town hall needs to be moved. We asked them to remove this 3 years ago, and gave them another year after that to remove this truck, and the truck still remains. We are in need of the space. Jake Gibson will be apprised of this and can tell them at the next fire department meeting.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said there will be an armed intruder drill tabletop exercise this fall on October 26th.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said the paperwork for the property at 3949 S. 775 W. had been signed and the title commitment had been emailed to Megan and we just need to coordinate a time for closing.

Corbin said he had talked to the Humane Society about changing the contract. His recommendation is to sign the contract for this year and meet with them to discuss the changes for the contract next year. There will be a meeting in September. Council signed the Humane Society contract; Megan will mail it tomorrow.

Corbin has been in contact with Seth for the easements on the sidewalk projects. He is trying to make it simple, and make sure we are on the right path for it. Corbin said Dave Kieser needs to call Seth about this and hopefully get this taken care of.

Don Parvin asked Corbin if everything had been done for Mr. Rutherford. Corbin said he had.

Don Parvin said if anyone had changed their mind on allowing alcohol at the Community Center. Don feels that we should get Jake involved too so that they are all on the same page and they can get his input too. This is #2 on old business and will be tabled until next month.

Plan Commission – Megan Reel said Mike Kanable had left his report with her, and he had written 1 permit for a new cement driveway at 645 E. Main St.

Board of Zoning Appeals – There was no new business.

TIF Board – Roger Waddell said they had received a quote for ne “Russiaville” signage. The council was given a copy. This will be tabled until there is more information.

Greg Landrum asked about the generator they were looking into for the Community Center. Rick Homkes said they are still working on this as they are making sure they are comparing things the correct way between the different quotes they received.

Historical Society – Don Parvin said there was some lumber and things inside the Interurban building. He talked to the contractors and they said they would use what they could and dispose of anything else that is of no value in the project.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and community (senior) day had been previously talked about and was a success for sure.

4 trees have been planted in the park.

Joshua Connolly presented his plans for a Gaga Pit in the park as his Eagle Scout Project. He gave an overview of Gaga ball, what it would look like, and made out of. He said it would cost \$3,280.00. he will fundraise to get all the money. With the boards approval he would start doing that right away and said it would take approx. 2 months for this to be completed. There were a few questions and some discussion. Pat Reel made a motion to allow Joshua Connolly to out the gaga pit in the park, fundraising for all the money, and nothing that the town would need to do for the project. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Pat Reel said Jada Sceggell completed the raised bed project here at the town hall for her Eagle Scout project. He said it looks amazing and is a great improvement for the town.

Bob Webb, the Post Commander from Amvets was present to let us know who they are and what they do. Last fall there was a post started in Russiaville (Post #

27), they are always looking for new members to expand their post. They council veterans with PTSD, and also other things that may go along with that, i.e., marriage counseling, financial counseling, drug addictions, etc. They have partnered with Turnabout to help with things such as these for veterans. Mr. Webb said there are no paid positions with Amvets. All the money that is raised from their events goes back to help veterans. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at First Baptist Church at 6 pm.

Don Parvin thanked them for not only their military service, but their service to our community to help veterans in need.

Don Parvin said he is still working on lighting issues.

CDs at bank – Megan Reel said the 3 CDs are maturing and wanted to know what the council would like to do with them. Myrna Claar made a motion to put them in another 12-month CD or if there was a better deal on interest for Megan Reel to make that decision when she redid them at the bank. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Greg, and Pat voting for passage.

Ned Sutherland was present and said they had taken their monthly RCO trip to State House and the Benjamin Harrison Museum.

He also said the churches had bought a radar sign that they will move around town. They had it changed to say “slow down now, stop in Sunday” with the speed limit on it. The radar does not work yet, but they hope to get it fixed soon.

Rick Homkes was present and expressed his concern about the new convenience store/gas station that was projected to come to Russiaville. He feels there are other things our town needs instead, as we already have 2. He is also concerned about the new owner being from outside of Russiaville. They are in the community because their business is here, but they are not of the community. Rick spoke of the moratorium that Kokomo recently put on to let the zoning laws catch up, this would allow us time to prevent something that might degrade the town versus enhancing it. Rick said he would like the council to consider do we really need another convenience store. Don Parvin said he had contacted Jennifer who represents the buyer of the property. He asked her if there would be a possibility of putting certain things in it, and was told they are not interested in doing anything different than their original plan. He said he told her that we have

2 other convenience stores, and she is just the buyer/seller. Don added they will still have to come through the proper channels to be submitted. The preliminary plan was submitted and told it meets the requirements, and now they will need to submit the specs and plans and get permitting that is required to be approved by the board.

Rick Homkes said this parcel needs to be added to the TIF District as well.

Mark Fulk came in and the signage that the TIF Board had been discussing was further talked about. They had a quote from Clifford Signs for 2 "Town of Russiaville" signs for \$35,042.56. One will go ¼ mile east of 870 W. on the south side of 26, and the other will go east of Hollingsworth Lumber on the north side of the 26. Don Parvin asked about permitting. Mark Fulk said Clifford Signs would handle all the permitting with the state. Mark added, where they are located will not cause any issues with traffic or sight. After some discussion, Pat Reel made a motion to allow the TIF Board to accept the quote for the 2 new signs. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

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.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer