

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall – 5:00pm
July 24, 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, mentioning the Stout family and their loss of Dave Stout. Greg Landrum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the June meeting and one special meeting on July 11, 2023 were approved.

Rylan Durr was present to publicly apologize for tearing branches off the tree in the park. He did a good job and the council thanked him.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan is working on the budget and will meet with them on July 31st.

Streets/Wastewater – Don Parvin said Craig could not be here tonight, and there isn't much to report.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said he talked to Jordan from Flat Top Geek about cameras for the park. He said he got an estimated quote for 3 cameras, one with a 16x optical zoom. For all 3 with labor and everything it would be right around \$1,700.00. Don said \$300.00 was approved before, but this was not done due to time constraints on the installer. There was some more discussion as to where the cameras would be placed and what their view would be. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the cameras for the park with an estimated cost of \$1,700.00. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson had a Western School Corporation memorandum of understanding. This is their job description and their duties as resource officers at

the school. It is the same as in years past. Pat Reel made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance Establishing Certain Copying/Duplication/Certification Fees to be imposed for the police department. Pat Reel made a motion to suspend the rules to be able to pass Ordinance 2023-01 on the second and third readings. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Greg, and Jake voting for passage. Pat Reel made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-01 on the second and third readings. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson had an updated quote from ACME Sports for the price of the service pistol changes he requested at the previous meeting. This is the same company, it is the same number of weapons, but a couple of things were changed and they will now exchange our mags for new mags needed. The price actually went down to \$2,075.00. Greg Landrum asked if this was just for their personal preference. Josh said there a few other things contributing to this but mainly yes, it is personal preference for both him and Carl. Pat Reel made a motion to allow this. Motion died for lack of a second.

Jake Gibson commented saying this was just like Chevy, Ford, or Dodge. There are a lot of good guns, and he has his preference too. Jake said the council gives Josh a budget and it is his to spend wisely. He feels we shouldn't give the appropriation but then say we don't want him to spend it on a certain thing. That is the purpose of them giving him a budget. Jake was ok with the motion Pat made. Don Parvin asked Corbin King if they could make the motion again. Corbin said yes. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the service pistol changeout for \$2,075.00. Jake Gibson seconded. Myrna Claar had a question about the mag change out with the county and how they wouldn't be interchangeable. Josh said he felt this would not be a huge issue. Greg Landrum abstained from the vote saying it was immaterial to him. Corbin interjected saying that he wanted to clarify the way the motion went from beginning to end. After a motion, there should be a second to open it up for discussion and then it can be voted against in the end. Corbin apologized for this. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Myrna voting for passage.

Carl Swan presented K-9 Max as newly certified in narcotics detection. Carl doted on Max a bit saying how the kids at school and the library, and genuinely everyone loves Max. Carl feels he would be a great addition to the police department here in Russiaville. Pat Reel made a motion to bring Max on to the Russiaville Police Department with Carl Swan being Max's handler, adding that the town would lease Max from Carl Swan for \$1.00, and when Max or Carl retires, Max would carry out the rest of his days with Carl. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage. Corbin King swore Max in as Russiaville Police Department's new narcotics detection K-9 officer.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department – Jake Gibson said the fire truck had finally been moved out of the town hall.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said there was a planning meeting for a tabletop exercise in October. Rick said he could not be there but the health dept. said they would really like someone from the council to be there in his place. Don Parvin asked Rick to let him know what the date and time were when he found out and he may be able to go.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he had looked at the peddler's ordinance that the council would like to amend. Josh Fulkerson said he would just like to see a fee for not getting a peddler's permit, adding if they had talked to them and told them to get a permit or they need to leave town and they are back the next day and still don't have a permit, then they could write them a ticket for non-compliance. Greg Landrum asked if a girl scout needed a peddler's permit. Don Parvin said if it was a charitable thing a kid was raising money for then there would be no permit needed, but if it was someone going door to door or hanging tags around to sell windows, trash service, construction, anything to where they are making money for a commercial business then they would need a permit. Don Parvin said he thought the fee could be \$25.00 per occurrence.

Pat Reel made a motion to accept the changes to the peddler's ordinance with a \$25.00 fee for soliciting without a permit on the first reading. Jake Gibson seconded. There was more discussion about the violation fee. Carl Swan felt it

should be higher than the actual permit fee, as an incentive to obtain the permit. If it was more, it might make them get the permit. Jake Gibson said if the person was unaware of the need for a permit, and were advised by law enforcement to obtain one, and did not comply, they would be in violation of the ordinance. Jake Gibson said if they were then sited it should be higher than the original cost of the permit. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage. Corbin said he would have the deed for Mr. Rutherford at the next meeting now that he knows how they want it titled.

Corbin asked about the alcohol at the community center. He knows there was discussion about it at the last meeting and it is in question. If we decided that we do not want it, the motion needs to be rescinded. Corbin said at this time, we have a motion, second, and voted in favor for alcohol to be allowed at the community center from a previous meeting. Myrna Claar made a motion to rescind the motion that was previously made to allow alcohol at the community center. Pat Reel seconded. Greg Landrum was opposed. Jake Gibson was opposed. Don Parvin voted in favor of rescinding the previous motion. Therefore, the motion passed with Myrna, Pat, and Don voting in favor. Alcohol is still not allowed at the community center.

Jerry Brown was present said he has been staying in a camper on Union St. He has been told he is in violation of the town zoning ordinance, and was told he needed vacate the camper within 14 days. Mr. Brown said he had been working on housing and had a stroke not long ago and would like to have a bit of additional time to move the camper out of there. He also asked that there be no repercussions to the homeowner on Union St. that helped him and allowed him to have the camper in his back yard. The council asked how long he would need. Mr. Brown said August 12th should give him plenty of time. Pat Reel made a motion to allow Mr. Brown until August 12th to have his camper moved. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he had some people ask him about having more than 6 chickens. Pat Reel proposed and made a motion to amend the existing ordinance allowing people to have 12 chickens, no roosters, and a \$25.00 one-time coop permit fee, on the first reading. Myrna Claar asked what it said now. Don Parvin said right now you can have 6 chickens, no roosters, and there is an annual coop permit fee

of \$20.00. Greg Landrum seconded. Megan Reel asked about the people that already have a chicken coop permit. Council said they would be grandfathered in and not have to pay again. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable said he had no new business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – There was no new business.

TIF Board – There was no new business

Historical Society – Nothing new to report.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said the Eagle Scout that is putting the Gaga Pit in the park will be installing it this Saturday (weather permitting). Rick Homkes has marked the fall zones from the other structures so that it gets put in the correct place. Rick said he could not be present and asked if a council member could be. Pat Reel said he would be there.

Jill said that Rhiannon Thompson from the Russiaville Twisters approached them about taking over the Winter Fest and the 5K run events that they do. Jill said they had decided not to take this over, but the RCO (Russiaville Community Outreach) was going to take these things over.

Jill Newby said she had a meeting with Josh Fulkerson, and Myrna Claar about the Park Rules and getting the main ones together from the existing ordinance to have a sign made for the park. Myrna Claar read the rules that were presented. There was some discussion about possible changes. Don Parvin said he feels we need to check with Corbin on a few of these and then we can proceed.

Rick Homkes said they had raised a total of \$26,140.53 for the Community Center Park Playground/Shelter/Restroom. They have \$100,000.00 pledged from the Community Foundation and \$1,000.00 from Functional Devices. There is also \$7,066.05 in the Park Fund that can be used. This all totals \$134,206.58. Therefore there is about \$116,000.00 that they still need before they can apply for the grant to get the other \$250,000.00 to fund the total project of \$500,000.00. Rick just wanted to make sure the council knew where they were at with this. Don Parvin asked if they were just applying for one grant. Rick said yes, all at once because it was on a points basis and the more features you have to add to the point total,

the better it is, so it needs to be the same grant. Rick Homkes added the deadline for donations is April 1, 2024, then they will apply for the grant.

Pat Reel asked about the bathroom that they are wanting to put in. Who is going to clean it, how are we going to lock it up, who's going to keep it stocked and maintained, etc.

Pat also said he had some people approach him and ask why we couldn't take some of the equipment we have at this park and make a park out there, and then put the new equipment here at the town park that the kids use all the time. Can we do that. Jill Newby said they try to upgrade the town park as needed. Pat agreed, but added there is more chance of vandalism out there as well. Jill said all the fundraising they have done has said they were putting the playground out at the community center, so she thinks that would not be the best to do, and there would be a lot of things that would need to be changed and people told. Don Parvin said this was always part of the plan at the community center park. Rick had numbers from the 2020 Census numbers with our population and growth of us and our peer towns. We had the highest population growth. This is a good thing.

Jada Sceggell from Scout Troop 619 was present to listen in for her merit badge.

Don Parvin said he would like the council to consider getting some metal picnic tabled for under the shelter here at the town park. The wooden ones have had boards replaced and we are constantly staining them and they are just getting pretty worn. Rick Homkes agreed saying they have been fighting the wooden ones for some time. There was some discussion on this, and also where we could get the money to do it. Don Parvin asked if the park board had plans for the \$4,600.00 that was still in the park rehab appropriation. Rick said they were planning on replacing the wooden swing on the west side of the park with that. Rick Homkes asked for the council to turn it over to the park and tree board to work on and discuss at their upcoming meeting. The council said the Park Board could spend up to \$6,000.00, and they would decide where to get the money by next meeting. Council will table it for now, and allow the park board to bring back their recommendation with cost quote to the August meeting. Park Board agreed.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said he talked to Dave and they were still working on the existing projects. Don said he told Dave we are not taking on another project until we get these existing ones done.

Pat Reel said he would like to use an engineer that has built a sewer plant before. Jake Gibson agreed and said he feels Craig Thompson should be the liaison with this project. Pat agreed. This has taken a long time and now it seems it has been set to the side and we really need to get this going as things need upgraded before they fail.

Pat Reel also asked about the Interurban Station, saying he would like to know how it will get insulated enough before we turn on water or hang drywall. There are still single pane windows in there and it is not sealed up. He doesn't want to heat the outdoors.

Greg Landrum commented and thinks Dave should be here a little more, involved, come to the meetings to answer these questions that are being brought up.

Bob was present from AmVets to remind everyone of the block party this Wednesday from 6-8 pm in the bank parking lot and down the alley to the Turnabout building.

Pat Reel said there is now a receptacle here at the Town Hall for people to bring used U.S. Flags to. It is inside the Town Hall. There is also one outside at the Lions Club. Thanks to an Eagle Scout there is a pit at the Lions Club for ceremoniously disposing of these flags.

AmVets plan to have possible cookout and flag retirement service and ceremony on Veterans Day. They are working out the details to be able to do this.

Pat Reel had a quote to replace the glass in the broken window at the town hall and the front door. It is very cold in here in the winter and Pat feels this would help to seal some of it up. The quote from Kokomo Glass is about \$4,900.00. Pat Reel also said Megan would like to have the payment from slot go into her office instead of in the middle of the doorway on the floor. There are different people that come and go and she feels it would be more secure. Pat said he has looked at drop boxes and they are not very much, and we would just need to have it installed. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the purchase and install of these items. Myrna seconded. Roger Waddell said he thinks the State Fire Marshall should be checked with since we are going from 2 doors to one. Megan Reel said

she asked the guy at Kokomo Glass and he said since it was wide and it was a fallout door it should be fine, but she would double check. Pat Reel abstained. Greg Landrum abstained. Don Parvin said he would like to find out more info, therefor the motion died for lack of enough votes.

Don Parvin said he talked to Jeff Lipinski about the cost of getting Squirrel Creek cleaned out. The quote from Rice Tree was \$26,500.00. Don said Jeff told him they may be able to add some money to help the cost. Don Parvin said his opinion is to forgo that and not do it unless the county pays for it all. Pat Reel said the county collects ditch assessment on this, they pay that to maintain the ditch.

Don Parvin has contacted Duke Energy about getting the dead tree cut out by the ditch on S. Liberty Street that was struck by lightning, and they refuse to cut it even though it is in their lines. Don said he will talk to Rice Tree Service about cutting it and get a quote.

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 6:34 pm.

Don Parvin, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer