

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall
March 27, 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 February meeting and a special meeting on March 20, 2023 were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Megan Reel gave written reports.

Streets/Wastewater – Don Parvin said Craig and Paul could not be here tonight. Don thanked Pat for doing a few repairs and things at the community center. Don Parvin said there were issues with the east tank strainer at the sewer plant. Craig Thompson has spent a lot of extra time taking care of this issue, and it is fixed.

Marshal’s Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Pat Reel asked how Max (k9) was coming along. Josh said he is very close, and would hopefully be certified in the next month or two.

Pat Reel said the tornado sirens that were not working properly, are now and went off correctly yesterday.

Greg Landrum said he thinks Josh and Carl do a nice job for our town.

Greg also asked about shutting down State Rd. 26, and said the traffic will be diverted to the county line. He asked about putting a flashing stop sign south of town to help with traffic knowing they need to stop. The council said that would be a county call. Josh said he would contact them.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department - No business to report.

Health Department – No Business to report.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said we got to appraisals for the property at 3949 S. 775 W. and they came in at an average of \$18,000.00. \$15,000.00 is our proposal, and we would pay for closing costs, and title insurance. The existing owner of the property would be responsible for the taxes. Corbin had the offer to purchase. Myrna Claar made a motion to proceed with the offer to purchase, and everything that needs to be done. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Corbin King said on the New London property that Mr. Rutherford would like to buy, since the value is less than \$15,000.00, we can narrow the people to bid on it to the abutting land owners. Pat Reel made a motion to proceed with the sale of the property to the abutting land owner with the highest bid. Myrna Claar seconded. Myrna asked if Mr. Rutherford was informed of what he would have to pay for the property and everything that would have to transpire to do the sale. Corbin said that Don Parvin had contacted him about it. The motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Corbin said he had talked to the Humane Society about the changes that our Marshal had asked to change in our contract. Corbin said they were receptive to looking at it and discussing it, they said they would get back with him. Corbin had language on the alcohol wording for the community center agreement. The council will look at it and let Corbin know.

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

Board of Zoning Appeals – Roger Waddell said there was no new business.

TIF Board – Roger Waddell said they are getting finalized on the new signs for the town. They will bring it to the council when it is. Roger also said they were waiting on one more quote for the generator at the community center, they will look at them all at the next TIF meeting.

Pat Reel said he has heard good things about the new lights on the west end of town. They are still working on a few things like the color of the bulb, but looks good.

Historical Society – Nothing new to report.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said they had found a new member to replace the vacancy. They would like to recommend Cherie Helmberger. Pat Reel made a motion to bring Cherie Helmberger on to the Park Board. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Jill asked the council to be thinking of project for community day coming up in May. There was a question about more rock to be out in the circle at the community center. Pat Reel made a motion to put some more rock in the circle at the community center. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Jill Newby said she received a letter recognizing that we are a Tree City USA for 2022. This is 15 years. Thank you to Rick Homkes, who always submits everything and does all the leg work for this.

Jill said she got a message from an Eagle Scout that would like to put in a gaga pit. This is a game that is similar to dodge ball that is played with one ball in an enclosed "pit." Pat Reel said the ones he has seen at school are probably 20' across. Don Parvin asked where we would put it. Jill said she was unsure. There was some more discussion. Don Parvin said all Eagle Scout projects should have a plan, his focus, how long it will take (start date and completion date), how much it will cost out of him (not the town). Jill said she brought this up to see if there was anywhere that the council thought it could be put before she even contacted the scout. Myrna Claar said he may not realize all that is out at the Community Center Park and all the plans that have been made for the future. Don said personally he was not sure this was a good idea. Jill said she would contact the scout and get information together and get back with the council on this.

Jill said the letter of interest was accepted to be able to fill out a full grant with the Community Foundation for the playground project. They will submit a presentation to them on April 11th. Jill had some pictures of a possible bathroom for the project.

Jill said Emerald at the Community Foundation said that they may ask her if the town will put any money into the project. Jill said they are working very diligently to fund what they need to for the match to their grant but so far it is just small amounts. They want to fund it all but she would like to know, if she is asked, how to respond to them asking if the town will out in money. The council was unsure

at this point, with our budget being so tight. They will look at the budget to see if anything is possible.

Josh Fulkerson asked Jill about getting some park rules signage. Jill said that was talked about in the past, she said the park board will look into this again, and bring something to the council.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said the interurban is being worked on. They are going over contracts, and will hopefully start next month. Dave is still working on the wastewater project.

Honey Creek ditch –Don tabled this for now.

EMA Agreement – Roger Waddell asked that we keep Larry Smith's family in prayer as he recently passed away. He was the past EMA director for many years.

Pat Reel said he was at the community center on Sunday doing some work and noticed the pine tree on the Southeast corner of the building. It is half dead and he feels it need to come out. It wasn't great last year and is worse now. The council discussed it. Pat Reel made a motion to cut the tree down and take it out. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage. Greg Landrum said he would cut it down.

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