

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
July 25, 2022

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

Jeff Lipinski gave prayer. Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Minutes from last month's meeting and one special meeting on July 19, 2022 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan read the budget estimate of \$1,355,000.00 that she will go to the DLGF with on August 3rd. Pat Reel made a motion to allow Don and Myrna, who will also attend the meeting with Megan, to make cuts and decisions during the meeting to avoid meeting again to do so. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and had a written report. Craig said that Crenshaw Paving had started doing the driveway at the wastewater plant today. IDEM was here on July 11th to do an inspection. They had a blower go down and got that fixed.

Don Parvin said he would like to see if Crenshaw would be willing to fix 2 sinkholes here in town, one on N. Union and the other in the alley behind the Masonic Lodge. Don Parvin made a motion to have Crenshaw Paving fix the sinkholes and take the money out of the Rainy-Day Fund. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Craig Thompson had quotes for a mower, grapple bucket, and speed limit signage that were briefly discussed at the special meeting. The John Deere 60" grapple bucket is \$4,750.00. The John Deere Z950M mower is \$15,487.68.

Pat Reel made a motion to get the grapple bucket and the new mower at the prices above and pay for them out of MVH. Don Parvin seconded. Greg Landrum asked why we needed this mower since we still have the Grasshopper. Craig Thompson said with all the mowing they do it would just be nice to have 2 zero turn mowers, and if something happened to the Grasshopper, we would not be left with nothing.

Greg Landrum was opposed to the motion. The motion carried with Pat, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Josh Fulkerson had a couple of quotes for some mobile radar units and pole mount radar units, as did Craig. They are waiting on a couple more quotes and then they would bring them to the board. The council said they will take the ones they had under advisement, and when they get the rest, they will get them to the council too.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present with a written report. Josh talked briefly about meetings they have been having with the Kokomo Humane Society. We have a contract with them, but there are several issues with it and how it works. Corbin King said he had been in some similar meetings and this was being discussed county-wide to hopefully come up with a solution that will work better.

EMA Advisory Board Member – Pat Reel said that he was told that Kori Wood, Deputy Director of EMA had resigned.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he had looked at the ordinance (2022-04) Megan had written to disburse money to the Russiaville Cemetery Assn. from the Community Foundation, and it looks fine.

Corbin said Megan had asked him about insurance if someone would like to teach a workout class at the community center. He said yes, they should always carry insurance. Also let our insurance carrier know to make sure it's covered.

Corbin said he thinks the best way to pay the Lions Club is to pay it out of Riverboat. The statute for Riverboat will cover us for giving them money.

Myrna Claar made a motion to give \$5,000.00 that has been in discussion in meeting recently from Riverboat to pay the Russiaville Lions Club. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Pat, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Jeff Lipinski read Ordinance 2022-04, an ordinance to create a Russiaville Cemetery Fund. This will allow the Town to accept the money from the Community Foundation on behalf of the Russiaville Cemetery Assn., and the Town will then remit the money to the Cemetery Assn. Don Parvin made a motion to allow Ordinance 2022-04 on the first reading. Myrna Claar seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage. Corbin said Don Parvin has been working on the easements for the South Union Street sidewalk project. Don added once this part is done there will need to be topographical survey (topo) done. After all this is complete, then they will be able to bid it out.

Don Parvin said the title company needed the 5-acres the Town is buying from Roger Carter to be surveyed. Then we can get closed on this piece of property.

Jeff Lipinski asked about the Community Center agreement again. Jeff would like to decide on allowing alcohol or not at the community center tonight. Corbin said we need to vote yes or no and then he will get the verbiage to add to the agreement if they vote in favor. Don Parvin made a motion to allow alcohol at the community center with a different fee schedule and proper paperwork for the rental. Greg Landrum seconded. Pat Reel was opposed. Myrna Claar was opposed. Jeff Lipinski did a roll call vote with Don and Greg being in favor of the motion and Pat and Myrna being opposed to it. Jeff Lipinski being the deciding vote, voted in favor of the motion, therefore it passed with Don, Greg, and Jeff voting for passage.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present and said he had no new business to report. Don Parvin said he talked to Chris Rust, resident of the town, and he said he would be interested in filling the vacancy on the plan commission. Don Parvin made a motion for Chris Rust to fill the vacancy and become the new plan commission member. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

TIF Board – The July meeting was canceled, and the next meeting is scheduled for August 25th. No new business to report.

Historical Society – No new business to report. Don Parvin said the bid process in September for the Interurban.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present to report. Jill said they have installed 7 new bluebird houses with the scouts.

Jill said there were 30 new plants donated to be put in the pollinator garden. Jill said that Rick told her it was ok for them to look unkept. Myrna said “not with her.”

Jill said they had talked about replacing the wooden swing structure at Russiaville Town Park. They are looking into this as to what to put in there.

She said they are working on getting donations for the new Community Center playground and shelter they have plans to build. They are trying to make sure everything is in place before they make all their posters and flyers. Jill said Rhiannon Thompson has been very gracious in helping set up Venmo and PayPal, as these payment methods are what is preferred anymore. Of course, they will still take cash or check at the town hall for this project too. Jill said they did get a second quote from AAA, just in case some of their donors would require 2 quotes to be able to give them money.

Dave Kieser – Dave said they are moving along with the architectural engineering design for the Interurban building. Waiting on the surveys to get done for the South Union Street sidewalk project. Putting together the specs for the North Union Street sidewalk project.

Commonwealth Engineers – Chris Harrison was present and said they had been working with the county on a sewer-wide study to identify septic areas of the county, and now looking at areas that could be hooked to a sewer system.

Specifically, they are asking about the West Middleton area. Chris is asking if Russiaville would be willing to be the wastewater treatment provider.

Commonwealth would get with the towns consultant and staff to identify if this would be feasible to move forward with Russiaville as a treatment provider.

Jeff gave a little overview of what happened with New London. Council discussed and asked some questions. Dave Kieser said with the purchase of the 5-acres we are planning on expanding for growth and development. Jeff Lipinski said we acquired debt with we took over New London’s wastewater, he does not want any more debt if we take on these projects. We are willing to be good neighbors

and help though. Dave suggested we support the idea of bringing areas with septic systems here such as West Middleton. Don Parvin made a motion to allow the planning stage to take place for this possible project in the future. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Walnut Tree – Pat Reel said he feels the walnut tree is becoming a liability for the farmer's market and anyone doing anything in this back lot. A good-sized limb broke and dangled up there during the market this past weekend. Also, the 8-10 limbs that have fallen out of it this year and had to be picked up. Not to mention what a mess it is with all those walnuts everywhere. Pat said he hated to cut down a tree but it is not in a good area for the mess it makes and could become a liability. Don Parvin said he had talked to Rice Tree Co. about a quote for the tree. It would be \$1,300.00 to trim the walnut tree or \$1,000.00 to remove the tree and grind the stump. Pat Reel made a motion to have Rice Tree Co. to remove the tree for \$1,000.00. Myrna Claar seconded. Greg Landrum asked if we should have an arborist come in and give their opinion on it. Don Parvin said this tree has been an issue, and we have had it trimmed, but it is in a bad spot. Greg Landrum was opposed. Don Parvin abstained. With only 2 votes, Jeff Lipinski was the deciding vote, voting in favor to remove the walnut tree. The motion passed with Pat, Myrna, and Jeff voting for passage.

Ned Sutherland was present and said Turnabout Community Resource Center has begun to rent the building at 190 N. Union St. and they have started to have some meetings there. September 25th there will be a grand opening at 3pm, with a reception following at Main Street Christian Church fellowship hall. Pat Reel asked if he would get a green sign from the fire department made or something with the address out front. There was an incident the other night and the address was hard to find.

Mark Dubois, new Superintendent at Western School Corporation, introduced himself. He just wanted to get out in the community and meet people and be good neighbors and be involved. Council congratulated Mr. Dubois on his new position the school.

Don Parvin said he called Ellis Contracting LLC about repairing entrances at Phillips 66, the library, fire station, and a couple other places here in town. Don had an appointment with Ellis on July 11th at 5pm and the guy did not show up, and he did not call back when Don called him. He is going to try something else at this point.

Don Parvin said Rice Tree Co. was here and removed the tree and stump at the park and trees and bushes by the lift station on East Street. He did both for \$775.00 and did a nice job.

Don Parvin called Duke Energy about 5 street lights being out that need repaired. Don also called Duke Energy trimming the trees in the power lines across from 190 S. Liberty St. It is a mulberry tree that caught fire this past winter and they said they would get it trimmed as it is a high risk. The rest of the trees that were questioned in the lines on South Liberty St., South Union St. and Carter St. would have to wait as Duke told Don they were not on this year's rotation to be trimmed and would have to wait.

Don met with Josh Marion and John Ellison on the additional 14 new lights for Main Street.

Don Parvin said John Ellison told Donnie Alexander the Town had decided to go with option one on the LED lighting conversion.

Don said he called Duke Energy again about fixing Mike and Jan Koloszar's yard.

Don Parvin called Delta Commons about having the dead trees on their property falling onto the neighbor's properties and possibly causing damage. Delta Commons said they would take care of them.

Don Parvin said Ted Salsbery owns the elevator at the end of South Liberty St., he would like Mr. Salsbery to be sent a letter to have the elevator building boarded up and secured as it is not safe. Pat Reel made a motion for Marshal Fulkerson to send Mr. Salsbery a letter for the old Kokomo Grain elevator to be boarded up and secured to the Russiaville Police Dept. specifications. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he would also like a letter to Mr. Salsbery to mow and maintain his property at the end of South Liberty St. Pat Reel made a motion to send Mr. Salsbery a letter to mow and maintain his entire piece of property at the end of South Liberty St. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin would also like Amerigas to maintain their portion of the property in the same area. Pat Reel made a motion to send Amerigas a letter to mow and maintain their portion of the property at the end of South Union St. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin would like the council members to drive around town and compile a list of properties that need to be dealt with as far as mowing and weeds and tall vegetation. This has gone on too long and he would like it to be cleaned up.

Don Parvin would like the vacant vehicles here in town dealt with.

Don Parvin said he would like to look at Honey Creek Ditch and talk to the county about getting it cleaned out.

Pat Reel said he was told the parking lot in front of the businesses (Waddell's, Napa, Martin's, Wooden Nickel, Subway) up town is going to be repaved.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, the claims were presented and approved.

Don Parvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Reel seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer