

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall – 5pm
March 25, 2024

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Greg Landrum, and Roger Waddell
Corbin King, attorney, was also present.

Myrna Claar gave prayer. Greg Landrum led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson had a written report. Pat Reel said Craig told him the new land plane was working nicely.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said the process for the reserve has been going well, and they will have the applications narrowed down soon. Don Parvin would like to get a meeting scheduled to decide on the person to fill the reserve position. Megan Reel will text everyone and find a date that everyone can meet about this. Josh added that he had recently had an animal issue, and said we needed to get the Humane Society agreement signed. Corbin King said he would look at it and advise the board by the next meeting.

Public Safety – Nothing to report.

EMA Advisory – Nothing to report.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said they will have a training session each month on a different theme for preparedness in Howard County.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he looked into a donation for EMA. He said we can only give equipment to them, not money.

The question that had come up about livestreaming the meetings, Corbin said we do not have to be compliant with this until July of 2025.

The sidewalk easements – there are issues with one of them. Mr. Mueller is selling his house so he will not be able to sign. The new owners of the house would need to sign. This is the last easement that is needed to be able to do the project. Hopefully after the new owners have paperwork in their name, this can be signed, and we can proceed with the project.

Don Parvin said the bid meeting for the South and North Union sidewalk projects is April 17th at 10:00 am.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable said he had 2 permits –1 for a fence at 315 E. Kinsey Dr. and the other for a shed at 360 N. Union St. Don Parvin said the Plan Commission still needs 1 new member for a replacement for 2024.

Board of Zoning Appeals –Don Parvin said they still needs 1 new member for replacement for 2024.

TIF Board – Myrna Claar said they are still working on the permit for the signage with the state, and their next meeting is March 28th at 6pm.

Historical Society – Don Parvin said he is hopeful Dave will have the second phase of the Interurban project drawn up and we can proceed.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present. Jill said community/senior day would be May 14th this year with a rain date of May 15th. They are in need of jobs for the seniors to do, so if anyone has something please let her know.

Rick Homkes reported that we had been recognized as a Tree City for 2023. This is 16 years we have had this status.

Rick Homkes said he had previously brought to the board the 2023 accomplishments and the 2024 goals for the Park Board. He remembered that there were not any questions and that the council had see them but he would like the council to approve them if they are ok with them. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the 2023 Park Board Accomplishments and the 2024 goals. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage. There have been several donations for the inclusive playground project, and right now the total stands at \$201,545.82 with donations, in-kind donations, and pledges.

Jeff Lipinski was present and stated that the Park Board had come to the Howard County Commissioners meeting to ask for a donation for the inclusive playground project. Jeff asked the park board if they needed just \$250,000.00 or if they needed above the \$250,000.00. Rick Homkes said they needed \$250,000.00 to be able to qualify for the grant, but they need above \$250,000.00 to build the playground and bathrooms.

Jeff Lipinski said in the past 15 months, Howard County Commissioners have given money to different things within our local community, mentioning the Fire Department, Turnabout, and potentially tonight the softball league after some discussion. Jeff said they were very happy and proud to give \$50,000.00 to the inclusive playground project for them to be able to at least get to the point to be able to apply for the grant. Jeff said the park board has worked very hard on this to be able to make this happen, and it is going to become a reality for the kids of Russiaville. Everyone expressed their thanks not only to Howard County, but to the park board, and everyone who has donated to this project.

Janna Hyman expressed a heartfelt thank you to Jeff, and all his efforts to make this donation possible.

Softball Light Poles (#6 on new business) – Jeff Lipinski said Mike Moore was present to answer more specific questions about this. Jeff said Mr. Moore had contacted him, saying they had lost their insurance for the softball field here in Russiaville due to the light poles not being safe.

Jeff said he thought we could use the economic development money that is allocated to Russiaville for the year. He stated he thought Howard County could write a check for this. However, this is not how it works. It would be like a matching grant, with half the money coming from Howard County and Russiaville would have to match it. \$2,500.00 from each as the quote for taking the poles down is \$5,000.00. Howard County is willing to give \$2,500.00, if the town okays it and is willing to give \$2,500.00 also.

Mike Moore, a parent, was present to give an overview of what happened, and what needs to be done. Basically, that the poles need to come out or the insurance won't cover them. Mr. Moore said, after he attended the softball board meeting, he has just come here on his own to be able to get the girls out there playing. He said they have talked to Duke Energy about boring in the power. He said for the poles to come down it will be \$5,000.00 like Jeff said. He

has talked to the baseball and softball board members, about creating a board to deal with issues like this and figure out how to get poles back up. After the poles come out, there will not be new poles put back up at this time. Don Parvin asked about Duke Energy assessing the poles. Mr. Moore said there are only 2 poles they would do this for, the others are not owned by the. They are private. Mr. Moore said he knew the insurance was being worked one but was unsure where it was all at as the people working on it were on vacation this week. There was more discussion on the poles coming down and the insurance. Pat Reel said he just wanted to make sure if we get these poles taken down that they will be able to have insurance again. Mr. Moore agreed. Pat Reel made a motion to take \$2,500.00 out of Riverboat to help with this project, that will be matched with \$2,500.00 from Howard County to be able to pay for the \$5,000.00 bill from Hoosier Edison Line Company to get the poles down at the softball field. Greg Landrum seconded. Roger Waddell was opposed. Don Parvin voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Don voting for passage. Roger stated that he didn't appreciate the fact that there was an issue with this and not one board member is here. Adding that this board was asked to approve something, and they did, on a hypothetical. And we think we have approved this, and we think it is a good thing, but we are basically guessing. Roger just couldn't believe that if this was such an emergency situation, that they didn't even send one board member. Mike Moore agreed saying that is why he felt he need to reach out and try to get this fixed for the girls to be able to play. Don Parvin agreed with Roger Waddell saying that there is a board to work an and make sure things like this don't happen and are dealt with before it is too late, and it has to be done asap. Don Parvin said non-profits is not really what the economic development money is supposed to be used for, so what happens when the next one comes and wants to do the same thing. Mr. Moore agreed, saying that is why he would like the ball leagues to get a separate board together for this purpose. To be more proactive. Greg Landrum agreed, not wanting to set precedence for other non-profits that need money.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said he had covered most of what is going on with the projects to this point. Pat Reel added that we had received \$253,595.74 in ARP (American Rescue Plan) money. Pat stated that he had previously made a motion to use that money for the new sewer project. He wants to have more of an outline and be a bit more specific, and have an outline of what it will be used for

so that we are covered with the state and know where the money is going. Pat Reel made a motion for the ARP money to go to the rest of the engineering for the new sewer plant and the lab and maintenance building that will be the beginning of the sewer project. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

SRF Loan Program – Don Parvin said all board members received a packet of all the paperwork for the SRF application, including things to be signed for it. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the SRF loan application to be signed and all paperwork that goes with it. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Roger, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin had the North Union sidewalk design. All board members have seen it. Roger Waddell made a motion to accept the North Union sidewalk plan. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Roger, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Surveys for the Community Center Park – Pat Reel had a quote for splitting 2 acres off of the existing land and making it 2 parcels. The quote from 40th Parallel is for \$1,375.00. This is a requirement for the playground project. The 2 acres that is being surveyed as its own parcel they want to deed restrict so that it will be a park forever. Pat gave an overview of where this 2-acres would be, basically this is where the playground is planned to go. Rick Homkes said when you ask for this Land Water Conservation Fund Grant, it is federal monies and they are very set that federal money is going to be used for public park purposes from that point forward. Rick said apparently, they have had towns saying yep, we are going to do this and then end up doing something completely different with the property, and then the feds coming back and say that is not what you said you were going to do with the money. Having this surveyed and split and deed restricted will prevent all enclosed buildings other than restrooms from being built. The restriction would be that it would be a public park, trail, playground forever. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the survey to make the existing parcel at the community center into two, and deed restrict the 2 acres. Greg Landrum seconded. Roger Waddell asked if there was something that he could look at to visualize this, adding that to deed restrict something forever is a long time. Don Parvin said we can get it surveyed, and then talk more about it and deed restrict it

after so everyone can see where it will be. Rick Homkes said the quote is for the surveying, so that we can meet with them and be able to lay out where this area will be and then we will be able to give a visual on it. Roger said he is ok with getting it surveyed, he just wants to know what we would be restricting forever if we decided to do this. Don Parvin understands what Roger is saying, but he knows what the requirements of the grant are too. This grant will not be approved if the 2-acres is not deed restricted to a public park, trail, playground. Janna Hyman said she would like to give Rick a pat on the back for making sure we are following all the rules and requirements of the grant. After some discussion, Pat Reel amended his motion to allow the survey for \$1,375.00 to make the existing parcel at the community center into two parcels to get some survey stakes up to be able to visualize the 2-acres before they deed restrict anything. Greg Landrum still seconded. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Don Parvin asked about the public meeting requirements. Megan Reel said Corbin said we were ok until July of 2025 and then we have to livestream all our meetings. Rick Homkes said the county IT guy said during covid they had set up something like a tunnel through the internet, they may still have them, and there may be a possibility they could use them for Russiaville and Greentown so it would be less work to set it up so it can be livestreamed. They are thinking about it at the county level and trying to help.

Jill Newby said they have to have a public meeting for the DNR requirement for the playground project. That public meeting will be April 2nd at 5:00 pm. The regular park board meeting will be afterwards.

Josh Fulkerson said the Gene Parks 5K walk/run and the library's dance line will be April 13th, and the Little League opening day parade will be April 20th.

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. Roger Waddell seconded, and the meeting came to an end at 6:13 pm.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer