

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Jeff Stout Community Center
December 27, 2022

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar and Greg Landrum.

Corbin King, the town's attorney was also present. (Came in late)

Jeff Lipinski said a prayer, and Don Parvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson gave a written report. A couple of comments were made that the roads looked good. They were well maintained from the latest snow.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson gave a written report. Don Parvin asked about extra cameras at the park. Josh said it is doable and would not exceed \$300.00. Don Parvin made a motion to get the cameras for the park. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin also asked about 1 more at the Community Center. Josh said he would talk to Jordan about it.

Jeff Lipinski said the council would need to look at the department advisory members for 2023.

EMA Advisory – Pat Reel said nothing new to report.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King was not present.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present and said he had a peddlers permit for White Oak Construction.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

TIF Board – Roger Waddell was present. Don Parvin thanked the TIF Board for working with the council and funding the new lighting project on Main Street.

Historical Society – Nothing new to report.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said they would like to introduce Jeremy Burns, and have the council recommend him to be on the Park Board. Don Parvin made a motion to allow this and bring Jeremy Burns on to the Park Board. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Jill said they received \$930.00 from their recent basket raffle. Jill said they also had a donation from Jodi Clark. Jill went on to say that Jodi's employer very generously gives their employees \$500.00 to donate to a charity of their choice, and she chose the Park Board for the inclusive playground.

Jill said they would like to replace the swing in Brady Park and use the money in the Park Rehab appropriation. They have a quote from Playpros for \$2,540.00, and Playpros will install it for free. We would just need to provide a bag or 2 of cement. Don Parvin made a motion to allow the park board to purchase new swing frame. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Rick Homkes said they are close to \$14,000.00 that has been raised for the inclusive playground so far. He realizes that is a far cry from the \$400,000.00 they need, but they are working on it.

Rick would like to ask the council to earmark \$5,140.00 from the Gene Parks money for the community center playground project, and \$3,500.00 from the American Waster donations received in the past for the town parks and playground rehab out of Park Fund 2204. Earmarking is not spending, but this will help with the grant process. The council discussed this.

Don Parvin made a motion to allow the Park Board to earmark the money discussed that is in Fund 2204 and allow Megan to handle this when the time arose to be able to do it correctly as far as appropriations and SBOA is concerned. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said Dave is working all the projects and will bid Union Street sidewalk project and the Interurban project soon.

Ordinance 2022-07 an Ordinance authorizing procurement card/credit card or charge account use and authorizing electronic funds transfers was read. Don Parvin made a motion to suspend the rules to pass this on the second and third readings. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-07 on the second and third readings. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Ordinance 2022-08 an ordinance fixing salaries for 2023 was read. There was question on this last month, Corbin looked at and said it was fine now. Don Parvin made a motion to pass salary ordinance 2022-08. Myrna Claar seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Enter Corbin King

Corbin said he had gotten nowhere on the redistricting and now we are at the end of our time. He was unable to secure the census data on the precincts, he has called the County and the City and the State and not gotten very far. We can do one of two things; we can say redistricting is not required and certify the existing districts continue to satisfy all requirements of the applicable statute. Most of it does, but since Corbin has no idea what the census blocks say, he can't say that the population is equal in them all, etc. Russiaville has grown in the last 10 years. They changed the rule that you can only do this once and it is due by December 31st 2022, so this only allows us a few days, and meetings have to be held, paperwork filed, and again we still don't have all the data we need to be able to do it.

The second thing we can do is to go to all council members at large. Corbin said he knows that the council has not wanted to do this in the past, but upon talking about this and trying to get the redistricting done, with our population, he thinks this may be an option we should consider. Corbin said this is Russiaville, and he feels that anyone who would run for council would have the best interest of the town in mind. This is one of the most caring towns, and everyone works together.

If this does not work, in 2 election cycles we can redistrict again if we so choose. Greg Landrum asked if we go at large, do we have to file paperwork by the end of the year. Corbin said we would have 30 days to file with the Court Clerk. It is an Ordinance, and we would just say right now that we move to abolish all districts. If we want to keep the districts, Corbin would have to come up with an Ordinance that would have to be done by Thursday at 4pm which means we would have to have a special meeting on New Year's Eve.

The council discussed this, feeling that the council over the years had always worked together and addressed any issues with fairness, and not worried about a resident having to go to a specific council member to handle their issues.

Don Parvin asked about having a primary depending on the situation. Corbin said this could be a possibility he thinks.

The question came up about staggering terms for council. Corbin said he did look into this, and this is for town that are over 10,000 people, so we do not need to stagger the term.

Roger Waddell asked what would happen if there is more than one Republican but we don't have the districts anymore, how would that be handled. In the past there was only one from each party that could run for each district, as we would have had a caucus to decide this. Corbin said he thought it wouldn't matter, the top 5 would win the election no matter what.

Pat Reel made a motion to do away with the districts and run everyone for the council at large. Greg Landrum seconded. Myrna Claar opposed. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Don voting for passage.

Property At 3949 S. 775 W. – Don Parvin said this property has not been maintained for too long now and would like to start proceeding for demolition. No one has resided there for some time. Corbin will look into what we need to do. This will be tabled until next month to get more info.

Humane Society Contract – Jeff Lipinski asked Corbin if there had been any movement on the county wide issue with this. Corbin said there was not. Josh Fulkerson asked that we don't sign the contract. Corbin said he understands his reservations on this as they do not come at night or on weekends or for emergency situations or if the animal is not contained. Josh feels that it is not right if they do not come in an emergency. If a dog attacks someone and there is

no owner around, he has asked the Humane Society what do we do. It is not is the contract. Corbin said it should be in there as we do not have it very often. Greg Landrum asked if we had to have the contract. Corbin was unsure. Don Parvin said he is not sure that it is to the benefit of the town to have the contract if we don't need it. Josh said his opinion is we should fight for what we want/need in the contract before we sign it.

Pat Reel made a motion not to sign the Humane Society Contract for 2023 at this time. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Fire Contract for 2023 – We have not received a fire contract from the Russiaville Vol. Fire Dept. We told them we needed to have it each year by November for the following year. Council asked Corbin what we need to do. Corbin will look into this, and follow up at the January meeting.

No comments from guests.

Jeff Lipinski said he will be officially resigned after this meeting tonight. He will take on his new role as Howard County Commissioner at the first of the year. Jeff said he has enjoyed being on this board immensely for the last 22 years. He loves the people and this town. We have had great boards over the years, mentioning Jerri Bourff, Mark Fulk, and Rob Hewitt to name a few. He also talked of Roger Waddell, and mentioning Sterling Johnson, our first Marshal that the police station is dedicated to. He said we have had good police in this community from them to where we are at now. Jeff went on to praise Craig Thompson for his work as the Wastewater Superintendent. Jeff spoke of Linda Downey and her many years of work for the town. Ken Rittman, saying this town owes him a debt of gratitude. Megan Reel for her work as our Clerk Treasurer, and learning all the new things that go with that. Corbin King for being not only the town's attorney, but for being a mentor and friend to him. Thank you to our Plan Commissioner, Mike Kanable. Thank you to Jill Newby and Rick Homkes and our Park Board, they are doing great things. Jeff's thoughts for our current board; Myrna Claar, is our newest member and can bring a lot to this board. Greg Landrum is valuable to this board and he appreciates the things he has to say. There is nobody in this town that care more about Russiaville than Donnie Parvin. He truly wants what is best for this town. He puts a lot of time and effort in for the projects of the town.

Pat Reel is a good friend, and he appreciates and respects him. Jeff said he could call Pat anytime day or night, about anything at all (town or personal) and he is going to try to help.

This town is in great shape. Jeff said whoever gets his spot is walking into an experienced board, that is going to be helpful, and help guide them. He looks forward to continuing to watch this town grow and to see good things happen. Jeff said he loves Russiaville and gave a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Don Parvin thanked Jeff for his leadership and dedication on this board. The council presented Jeff with a plaque for his 22 years of service to the town.

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. Don Parvin seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer