

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
November 25, 2024

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

Myrna Claar gave prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from October 28, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan said the SBOA Audit for 2022 and 2023 was completed on 11/14/2024 with Crowe. She said it was very different this year as it was all online, which required her to do a lot of scanning and uploading to them, but we got through it.

Megan had given a paper to the council with figures of what we currently spend to do billing, and what it would cost to use the mailing that Boyce (our billing software company) offers. This would be changing the look of the bill to be a full sheet of paper. No more cards. We spend about \$11,175.00 now per year, and the Boyce mail would be about \$10,861.00. While it is not a huge savings, it does free up some of her time and it is nicer looking and hopefully more secure. Soon they will be coming out with a new billing program that will allow people to be able to see their bills and pay them online in real time and this mail feature will work with that as well. That will be able to be talked about next year. After some discussion on this Jake Gibson made a motion to change the billing to Boyce Mail. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Megan Reel said she would like to write off an account that the person had passed away in April. Account # 104030. She didn't think it would ever get paid by anyone. It is for \$385.48. Jake Gibson made a motion to write this account off. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Roger, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and gave a written report. Craig said at the plant he needs to get the valves replaced on the return and waste side. They are underground. He has a contractor coming to give him a quote on Wednesday for this. Craig explained in detail what was happening with this. Jake Gibson made a motion to get this fixed as it is needed to keep things going. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Roger, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and had a written report. Josh said Halloween went well, all 4 of our officers worked. Josh had a pricing rundown of what a new 2025 Tahoe would cost of \$75,448.27. This would be through the state to find the best deal for financing. There may be a possible grant to offset some of the K9 equipment cost. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the work to begin to purchase the 2025 Tahoe for the department. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Ned Sutherland from RCO (Russiaville Community Outreach) was here to present Officer Swan and K9 Officer Max with a \$500.00 check that will help pay for Max's food and care. Carl Swan said this means a lot as the K9 program is funded strictly on donations. Another anonymous \$100.00 donation was also given to the K9 fund.

Ned Sutherland said the RCO and Lions Club would like to have a circus on June 11th in 2025 and would like approval to use the 5-acres that was purchased just north of the wastewater plant for this. The council had insurance questions and some other things to consider before they could grant this spot for a circus. Jake Gibson will get together with Ned and see if this is able to happen and what all would be needed.

Carl Swan said the reserves are doing very well. Carl also wanted to report on the dog that was found shot. Kokomo Animal Hospital saved him, and he is now home with his family.

EMA Advisory – Josh Fulkerson said there was nothing new to report.

Public Safety – Jake Gibson said there is nothing new to report.

Health Department – Rick Homkes said there is nothing new to report.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said he is working on the 2 properties for annexation. Pat Reel asked him about a property at 413/415 W. North St. He has had some complaints about it being junky, etc. Since the complaint, one of the tenants has moved out so maybe that is most of the problem but he asked if our nuisance ordinance would cover this or since it was a rental would there be something else, we would need to do. Corbin said he would look into it.

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

Board of Zoning Appeals – No new business to report.

Don Parvin said he would like everyone to think about who they would like to add to the Community Service Award plaque. They will decide next month.

Don Parvin said, in the past, when someone becomes certified with their wastewater license or better their class certification of their wastewater license, we had paid them a bonus for this. It is stated in our personnel policy. Don asked the board to approve this bonus for Craig Thompson as he has passed his Wastewater III certification test. The council agreed, and all approved Craig's bonus for this.

Don Parvin wanted to know the council's thoughts on changing the meeting date. Don asked Corbin about this as well, as he always has to leave half way through to get to another meeting. After some discussion, Roger Waddell made a motion for the 2025 meetings to be the second Tuesday of each month at 5pm. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Roger, Pat, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

TIF Board – Rick Homkes said they are working on the final rendering of the east and west signage. Dave Kieser is working on the new TIF 2 District and the Crosswalks for the new sidewalk area. Rick said they also voted on a new meeting night for TIF. It will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Historical Society – Phase II of the interior of the Interurban is being worked on.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said there is still no word from the DNR about the grant.

The final ash tree (there were 3 originally) was removed.

Happy Hollow playground piece was installed in Brady Park by certified playground inspector.

Community Day will be April 24th (with a rain date of April 25th) – this will help with testing that they usually have to work around at school in May and it will ensure that the kids can help seniors clean and out stuff out for big trash day that is shortly afterwards.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said the sidewalk project closeout will be done soon.

School Cornerstone – Roger Waddell said Caldwell Monument can no longer do the project as his employee had to retire and he has no one else to do it.

Caldwell's said they would still like to provide the plaque for it. Roger said he would do some more research to find someone else to possibly to this project.

Monroe Construction – There was a quote for \$5,728.00 for the town hall to put some insulation, change where the air return is so it is easier to hear in the meeting room during meetings, and to fix some duct work in attic that is pinched off and not allowing the heat to come through as it should. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow Monroe Construction to do this work at the town hall. Roger Waddell seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Roger, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

There was also a quote for \$2,475.00 for the community center to fix the supply closet ceiling and above it in the attic. There is mold all over because of when the air conditioning froze up, and then thawed out and leaked all down through here. Pat Reel said this happens because people leave the doors open when it is 100 degrees outside and the A/C just runs until it freezes up. He said this could happen again. Greg Landrum made a motion to allow Monroe Construction to do this work at the community center. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Greg, Jake, Pat, and Roger voting for passage.

Maria Toney Signage – Tabled as she was not present.

Salary Ordinance 2024-03 – Roger Waddell made a motion to pass the Salary Ordinance 2024-03 for the 2025 salaries. Jake Gibson seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Roger, Jake, and Greg voting for passage.

645 N. Union St. deep ditch – Pat Reel said this will be taken care of with the sidewalk project. He has already talked to John at Kieser Consulting.

Fire Contract for 2025 – Megan received this from Landen Bartley on Friday. Pat Reel made a motion to allow the Fire Contract for 2025. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Greg, and Roger voting for passage.

Jill Newby asked if a sign could be put up at the community center to keep the doors closed.

Jake Gibson would like to talk about raising the rates at the community center next month.

Darlene Homkes said she is really proud of how our community pulls together and helps and does this when they are needed.

Rick Homkes asked if we could do something about the signage that always accumulates around the Carl Koontz memorial at the 4-way stop. Craig Thompson was told if he sees any signs there near the memorial, to remove them out of respect for Carl Koontz and his family.

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 at 6:28pm.

Don Parvin, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer