

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Special Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall – 5pm
January 22, 2025

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Greg Landrum, Jake Gibson, and Roger Waddell

Roger Waddell called the meeting to order.

Myrna Claar said a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Internet at the Community Center was brought up. There are some internet issues, and phone lines are dropping and causing issues. There was some brief discussion on what to do with the internet, and referencing different ideas. Roger Waddell said that Megan spoke to Berry Comm representative and he is supposed to be here tonight to discuss possible time frame on the internet coming to Russiaville and then we can maybe make a decision.

Livestream and the fact that we need to do something sooner rather than later about this was discussed, we have to have this in place for the state mandate before the July meeting this year. There was an updated quote from AV Pro, who had previously quoted in the amount of \$6,256.00. There was also a quote from Flat Top Geek in the amount of \$2,339.00. The details of both quotes were read. There were pros and cons regarding both of these that were expressed. After further discussion, Pat Reel made a motion to have Flat Top Geek set up the livestream system. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Roger Waddell said when we get this up and going, anyone who has a report or needs to speak will have to come to a microphone to do so, and the public will have to state their name and address. There was discussion of a podium, and Pat Reel made a motion for Megan to buy a podium. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Enter Cash from Berry Comm –

The council asked him about Berry Comm getting internet to the Community Center. Cash said yes, they plan to but if we want it to be quickly, they would ask

the town to contribute to the project. The cost to build it is \$17,000.00. Don Parvin asked if we didn't contribute to the project, would they run the lines to the community center anyway. Cash said yes, they would, but the planning for this would be about 90 days out and the installation would not be until summertime (about July). Roger Waddell commented that if we can hang on a bit longer with our current internet, even though it is not the great, Berry Comm will do the work anyway and we will not have to come up with any money. Cash added that the monthly costs would be waived for all municipally owned buildings, that is just something they do for municipalities. Jake Gibson asked if there would be an agreement for the free service, and Cash said their can be and he would make it happen when the time came.

Cash said they usually go door to door to help spread the word when they put in new lines and asked if there was a permit that was needed for that. Megan said yes, they would need to get a peddler's permit. Don Parvin made a motion to exempt Berry Comm from the fees of the peddler's permit, adding they still needed to get the permits. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Roger Waddell said he had received a letter today from Western School recommending we replace Donna Shepherd, who is the current non-voting advisor for the Russiaville TIF Board that represents the school, with Cindy Hurst. Donna is no longer on the school board. Don Parvin said Donna is under a 2-year term, to which she has only served a year. Rick read the rules from Barnes and Thornberg from his phone, and the council tried to decipher them, and do the right thing. Mark Fulk said the rules sound like they are saying, the member can be replaced by the town council president if needed. Mark also added that it sounds like Donna Shepherd is no longer a school board member and is not recommended any longer by the school. As Roger Waddell was looking for help with what to do in this situation, Pat Reel made a motion to go with the school's recommendation of Cindy Hurst. Greg Landrum seconded. Pat Reel and Greg Landrum voted in favor of the motion, and Don Parvin and Jake Gibson did not vote in favor of the motion. Roger Waddell voted in favor of the motion to break the tie, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, and Roger voting for passage. Roger Waddell then took the council recommendation, and appointed Cindy Hurst as the new non-voting advisor for the Russiaville TIF Board that represents the school.

There was discussion about making a motion to keep the other 5 current TIF members the same or not. Jake Gibson made a motion to keep them the same as last year. Pat Reel seconded. Don Parvin was opposed. The motion carried with Jake, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

The Community Center rates were discussed. Jake Gibson said he had looked into several other places in the area, and gave pricing and a bit about what they offered for that price. There were 2 places that were similar to the community center and they were both \$500.00 for rental. He said with this info he feels that our rental fee should be raised to \$400.00. There was discussion of pros and cons on this, mentioning not raising it too much, but raising it enough that we didn't end this year in the red as we have in years past.

Jake Gibson made a motion to raise the community center rate to \$300.00 for the full day rental, keeping the deposit at \$200.00. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, Don, and Greg voting for passage.

Megan Reel asked about the time frame on this as she would need time to get the rental agreement changed and the other necessary things in place. Jake Gison asked if she could be ready by the meeting on February 11th. She said she thought so.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Don Parvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jake Gibson seconded, and the meeting came to an end at 7:22pm.

Roger Waddell, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer