Village of Russells Point
October 20, 2025
Council Meeting

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Council members Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid, Rebekah Smith and Dave Wallace were present. Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire was also present.
present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), AshLee Hullinger (Clerk of Court/Admin Assistant), Joe Freyhof (Chief of Police), Sharon DeVault, Ann Elleman, Amy Musil, Liz Gibson, Rick Landis, Robin Michaels, Christine Ricketts

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated October 6, 2025, as amended. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the September 30, 2025 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Mayor's Court

- The September 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of $680 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the September 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Police:

- The police department had 633 calls for service in September.
- Safety Town, conducted at Indian Lake Schools from September 19th – October 3rd, was successful and Chief Freyhof is wanting to expand the program next year.
- National Drug Take Back Day is October 25th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The front door to the municipal building will be unlocked during this time to allow citizens to drop off unused, expired prescription drugs.
- Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for October 29th from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.
- Trunk or Treat is October 30th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the municipal building parking lot.
- Indian Lake Elementary is hosting a Trick or Treat parade on October 31st at 2:00 PM for preschoolers thru 4th grade students.
- Sergeant Morgan Styles will be attending Pursuit Termination training from November 3rd thru the 5th.
- Chief Freyhof will attend a Police Chief Recognition Reception at the Governor's Mansion on October 21st.
- The 25 Years of Ohio CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) Ceremony is on October 29th.
- Chief Freyhof introduced Christine Ricketts who is the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Ms. Ricketts stated she wants to be helpful to the community and likes working with people of Russells Point to make a better neighborhood.
- Chief Freyhof spoke in support of the village purchasing IWorQ software to help with code enforcement and possibly zoning. Chief Freyhof noted that the software would make the process of code enforcement more efficient and would save approximately 5-8 hours a week of his time. Zoning Officer Dianne Gauder stated that she did not think the software is necessary for zoning at this time for the size of the community. Mayor Huffman noted that the software has a set up fee of $1,800 and an annual fee of $1,000. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to purchase the IWorQ software at a set up fee of $1,800 and contingent that the annual fee of $1,000 is a 12-month fee and will not be rebilled in January 2026.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council.

Parks & Recreation:

- Councilor Hinterschied submitted the Park meeting report to council.

Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report council.

- Councilor Iiams noted that LUC's annual banquet is November 20th and the speaker will be one of the three county auditors (either from Logan, Union or Champaign County) and will discuss the issue of rising property taxes.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting report to council.
- Councilor Reid noted that the district is finalizing the lease agreement for a new location in DeGraff.
- Councilor Reid stated that the district has 9 full-time employees (excluding the Fiscal Officer and Chief) who officially served the district a bond to unionize. The Board has obtained a labor relations lawyer.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Ordinance 25-1269 – Approve, Adopt and Enact the 2025 Replacement Pages to the Codified Ordinances. **Motion** was made by Councilor Wallace and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 25-1269 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Ordinance 25-1269 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Amy Musil presented her vision for the Indian Lake Boardwalk Project. The investment and project estimates are over $3.6 million with the goal to create a family-friendly gathering space with waterfront views, restaurants, music and outdoor activities. The boardwalk would encourage urban revitalization and economic growth with an increase in demand for dining, shopping, lodging and transportation services. Ms. Musil expressed her desire to bring back the "million-dollar playground" to Russells Point.
- Robin Michaels inquired about the property at 116 Walnut owned by Trinity Erevia. The property was damaged by the 2024 tornado and is scheduled to be demolished via the land trust program.

Old Business:

- Council reviewed the village clean-up day guidelines and restrictions. The clean-up day is scheduled for November 5, 2025 and all items must be placed curbside by 6:00 AM on that day or the evening prior. Applications for collection must be completed by residents. There is a limit of a "reasonable amount" that can be safely and efficiently collected. Residents may place up to 2 large items (furniture, mattresses) out for collection by scheduling in advance with the village.

New Business:

- Council reviewed the Mosca Design quote for village Christmas banners. The quote consists of 3 different banner designs and to purchase a quantity of 7 banners from each design at a cost of $910.14. Council also reviewed the Christmas Done Bright quote for 3 inflatable Christmas decorations/lights for $3,615. The majority of Council agreed that the Mayor should purchase the Christmas banners and decorations/lights. Mayor Huffman stated that village resident Rick Landis is donating a 12-14' Christmas tree to the village. Council thanked Mr. Landis for the tree.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to enter into an executive session and to invite Fiscal Officer McGuire and Clerk of Court AshLee Hullinger into the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and council entered into the executive session at 7:55 PM. At 8:23 PM, council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to exit the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and council resumed the open meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to allow the Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with a staffing agency to fill the temporary needs of a water clerk. Councilor Wallace noted that he could not vote on the motion without a pay rate range or cap. Council agreed. Councilor Reid rescinded his motion. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow the Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with a staffing agency to fill the temporary needs of a water clerk with the wage not to exceed $20/hour. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to adjourn at 8:28 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor	Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer	Date Passed