

Village of Russells Point

July 7, 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. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), AshLee Hullinger (Clerk of Court/Admin Assistant), Joe Freyhof (Chief of Police), Ann Elleman, Sharon DeVault, Robin Michaels, Liz Gibson, Eric Werner, Joselyn Werner, John Bergman, Michael Yoder (Logan County Commissioner)

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated June 16, 2025. 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 the council special meeting minutes dated June 19, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. **Motion** passed.

Reports:

Mayor's Court

- The June 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$2,711 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the June 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. **Motion** passed.

Parks & Recreation:

- Councilor Hinterschied noted the next kid's craft day is July 8th (making birdhouses) from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Indian Joint Fire District:

- Councilor Maxwell submitted the Indian Joint Fire District report dated July 7, 2025 to council. Council did not have any questions or comments.

Ordinances and Resolutions: none

Citizen Comments:

- John Bergman expressed concern regarding damage to his yard during the storm sewer improvement project. He noted that the contractor did fix his driveway, however the ruts in his yard remain. Mayor Huffman noted that Choice One Engineering, Helms & Sons Excavating and village administration are meeting on July 14, 2025 to review any issues that need corrected.
- Eric Werner asked about the stray cat situation. Mr. Werner previously received a warning not to feed stray cats and has cooperated. Village Administrator Mitchell stated that the village has not taken any action on capturing and releasing stray cats. Mr. Werner also inquired about the process of becoming an elected council member and about the appointment of council members. Council explained that there are 4 seats available in the upcoming November election and anyone interested should contact the Logan County Board of Elections. Council also explained that appointments to council seats only happen if there is a vacant council seat.
- Police Chief Freyhof gave an update on the fireworks festivities that occurred on July 5th and a great team effort was noted. Councilor Hinterschied thanked the police department for their job well done. Chief Freyhof stated the police department is currently in the 2nd round of code enforcement on the mowing of unmaintained properties and are also reviewing other violations of code enforcement. Also noted by Chief Freyhof is the newly acquired Honda Ridgeline is now upfitted with the necessary flashing lights needed if the vehicle is being used by the street department, zoning, police and any other use by the village.

Old Business:

- Village Administrator Mitchell reviewed the textmygov.com proposal with council. The service would send text messages to residents (who have to opt in to the text message system) regarding alerts ranging from general information (such as water main breaks, water leaks, street closures, boil alerts, etc.) and emergency alerts. Administrator Mitchell did negotiate a lower cost on the proposal. The original first-year cost of the proposal was \$3,500 and was lowered to \$2,500. The annual recurring cost of \$2,500 was lowered to \$2,000 annually. Administrator Mitchell has spoken with other cities/villages that use textmygov and it was advised that there needs to be emphasis on a marketing strategy and how it is shared with the community. Councilor Hintershied asked Administrator Mitchell to look into different providers of this type of product for a better cost analysis. Administrator Mitchell will also reach out to Indian Lake Schools and inquire about their program used to get information out.

New Business:

- Mayor Huffman shared an email received from Kevin Fodor, President of Gray Fox Broadcasting (WRPO), that their application for 501C-3 Tax Exempt status was granted by the IRS. Gray Fox Broadcasting is now a recognized charity by both the State of Ohio and the Federal Government.
- Mayor Huffman asked Logan County Commissioner Michael Yoder to speak on the Logan County Board of Commissioners resolution 138-25, amending the existing Logan County lodging tax regulations to expand collection of lodging tax on short-term rentals, which was distributed to council. It was noted that the commissioner's legislation would not affect current village legislation regarding short term rental tax on local rentals with 5 rooms or less (i.e., properties listed on Vrbo or Airbnb). The issue is with the local hotel (Cobblestone) lodging tax. Commissioner Yoder noted that whichever legislation was in effect first, regarding the hotel lodging tax, would supersede any preceding legislation passed by the village or the commissioners. Both council and Commissioner Yoder agreed to give the commissioner's legislation and the village legislation to the Village Solicitor and County Prosecutor for review. Councilor Reid asked Commissioner Yoder why the Indian Lake Visitor's Bureau does not receive any county funds. Commissioner Yoder explained that the commissioners have asked the Indian Lake Visitor's Bureau for information (specifically the by-laws, who serves on the board and the meeting dates, their financials) and the commissioners have not received any information. Commissioner Yoder stated that if the Indian Lake Visitor's Bureau is not transparent with the Logan County Board of Commissioners, then they will not receive county funds. Councilor Reid expressed concern over the Village of Russells Point sending a share of the short-term rental tax received from lodging tax from rentals with 5 rooms or less. Councilor Reid noted that council needs to be good stewards of the tax money received by the village. Mayor Huffman will invite the director of the Indian Lake Visitor's Bureau to provide an update on how they are using the funds provided to them by the village.
- A handout from the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission (LUC) outlining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities in Logan, Union and Champaign Counties from 2015 thru 2024 was distributed to council. The LUC is asking that a letter of support be sent to Ohio Senators to continue funding for the CDBG. Mayor Huffman received permission from council to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Village of Russells Point. Councilor Iiams asked that all council, as individuals, send a letter of support as well.
- Councilor Wallace asked Commissioner Yoder about the status of a water line between the Village of Lakeview and the Village of Russells Point. Commissioner Yoder noted that, at this time, the project is in the conversation stage.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 7:47 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed