

Village of Russell's Point
April 21, 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 Rebekah Smith, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid and Dave Wallace were present. Joan Hinterschied was absent and **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to excuse the absence of Councilor Hinterschied. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Recorder: Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire

Guests: Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), AshLee Hullinger (Clerk of Courts/Admin Assistant), Ann Elleman, Cynthia Defibaugh, Geoff Rigney, Sharon DeVault, Howard Traut, Jeff Patton, Pat Tynan, Robin Michaels, Tyler Thobe, Nathan Stover, Judge Doug Chamberlain

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated April 7, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal

- The presentation of the March 31, 2025 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Zoning

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council with no questions from council.

EMS Joint Ambulance District

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting minutes dated March 12, 2025 with no questions from council.

Parks & Recreation

- The Park Board Meeting report dated April 8, 2025 was submitted to council with no questions from council.
- Councilor Reid noted the Choice One Engineering agreement to provide services for the village splashpad site plan was signed by Mayor Huffman and submitted back to Choice One Engineering and will probably put the project out to bid in the coming weeks.

LUC

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report dated April 10, 2025 with no questions from council.

Fire District

- Councilor Maxwell submitted the Indian Joint Fire District meeting minutes dated April 21, 2025

Ordinances and Resolutions: none

Choice One Engineering:

- Tyler Thobe, Choice One Engineering, was present to discuss the change orders submitted by Helms & Sons Excavating regarding the Storm Water Drainage Project. Most of the change orders were not part of the original project plan but were eventually agreed upon by the village. The council expressed concern about the \$35,896.92 change order for downtime incurred by Helms & Sons when unmarked public utilities were cut and needed repaired. Council noted that the village should not pay for the downtime of cut public utilities that are non-village utilities, i.e., telephone lines, sanitary lines, gas lines. Choice One Engineering is in the process of negotiating the change order for downtime with Helms & Sons. Council agreed that Choice One can negotiate a reduction in the downtime change order from the \$35,896.92 to approximately \$15,000 by removing the

unmarked non village utilities that were cut during the project causing the downtime and the charge of \$5,574.70 invoiced to Helms & Sons by the village for water serve lines repaired by village employees.

- Councilor Reid expressed concern regarding several areas where property has been damaged (residential yards and public sidewalks) by Helms & Sons during the Storm Water Drainage Project. Council discussed having Choice One Engineering make a list of these areas of concern and have it addressed by Helms & Sons. Choice One noted that Helms & Sons are aware of some of these damaged areas and will address the issues.

Indian Lake Yacht Club

- Councilor Smith reviewed draft Ordinance 25-1260 regarding the determination the property tax exemption proposed by the Indian Lake Yacht Club. Council agreed the drafted ordinance does not meet certain criteria as outlined by Senate Bill 33 regarding the Ohio Community Reinvestment Area Program. It was noted that the ordinance must meet 8 requirements as outlined by Senate Bill 33 and the drafted ordinance does not meet all of the criteria. Council will have Village Solicitor Daniel Bey redraft Ordinance 25-1260 so that it will be in compliance and council will conduct an emergency reading of Ordinance 25-1260 at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on May 5, 2025. Councilor Smith noted the 3 conditions of exemption agreed upon by the Yacht Club included in Ordinance 25-1260. The conditions are, on an annual basis, the Yacht Club shall award 4 full scholarships to the Junior Sailing Camp based upon applications received with the guidelines and standards developed by the Yacht Club, the Yacht Club shall host at least 2 regattas per year, and the Yacht Club shall designate, create and maintain a space at the Yacht Club dedicated to the promotion of local events and businesses to inform and educate non-local visitors to local businesses, events and opportunities.

Citizen Comments:

- Robin Michaels asked that if any decision has been made on the textmygov.com proposal made to council at the council meeting on March 3, 2025. Mayor Huffman noted that the village has not moved forward with a decision regarding the proposal.

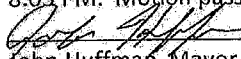
Old Business:

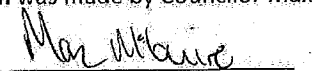
- Councilor Wallace noted that is trying to contact the previous Logan County Sheriff and have him come to a council meeting to discuss marijuana dispensaries.
- Councilor Reid asked about the electronic sign installation. Mayor Huffman noted that brackets are being made before installation of the sign can continue.
- Councilor Reid asked Mayor Huffman to announce the start date of the newly hired Village Administrator. Mayor Huffman stated that Spencer Mitchell is the new Village Administrator and his hire date is May 2, 2025. Mayor Huffman is working with Administrator Mitchell regarding a work transition schedule.

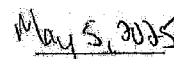
New Business:

- Councilor Iiams stated that he and Mayor Huffman met with Burgess and Niple, an engineering firm, and other Logan County representatives regarding a possible bike path connecting several Logan County communities, including Russells Point. Councilor Iiams noted that the estimated cost of the entire bike path is at \$28 million.
- Councilor Maxwell stated that she received in the mail a public meeting notice from the Logan County Commissioner's Office regarding the solar/wind project. The public meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2025 and will be held at Riverside Local School.
- Mayor Huffman stated that he will email the Land & Buildings Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss trees and repair work needed around the park.
- Mayor Huffman recommends to council the appointment of John Stinemetz to the Planning Commission. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the appointment of John Stinemetz to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 3-0 with Councilor Wallace and Councilor Maxwell abstaining from the vote. Motion passed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 8:05 PM. Motion passed.


John Huffman, Mayor


Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer


Date Passed