

Village of Russells Point
December 15, 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 liams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid, Rebekah Smith and Dave Wallace were present. Village Administrator Deanna Roe 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, Liz Gibson, John Henschen, April King, Glenn Fisher, Melissa Fisher, Tim McVety, Dale Frymyer, Codie Styles, Chelsea McVety, Morgan Styles (Police Sergeant), Westly McVety (Police Officer), Zeke Moretz, Luke Moretz

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor liams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated December 1, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

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

Administrator:

- The administrator has been working on employee job descriptions, handbook updates, quotes for maintenance department uniforms, cross training.
- The municipal building storm drainage project should be finishing up soon.
- A splashpad preconstruction contractor meeting was held and groundbreaking is set for February with completion by mid-May.
- For the water department, employee J.J. Frost is working towards getting a water license, employees are working on correcting utility billing software issues, shut off notices will be sent out beginning in January and the postage meter will be upgraded to improve mailing efficiency.
- Upgrades needed include a phone system/internet, a cyber security program (to be compliant with H.B. 96), cameras and security system, a timecard system.
- 58,000 gallons of water used without pay is resolved as well as several citizen complaints.
- Future needs include records retention training.

Zoning:

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

Mayor's Court:

- The November 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$330 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Reid to approve the November 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor liams voting against. Motion passed.

Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission:

- Councilor liams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report council.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting report to council.

Police:

- Police Chief Joe Freyhof submitted the Russells Point Police Department report to council. There were 545 calls for service in November.

Indian Joint Fire District:

- Councilor Maxwell submitted the Indian Joint Fire District meeting report to council.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 25-1062 – Authorizing 2026 Temporary Appropriations. **Motion** was made by Councilor liams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1062 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 liams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve Resolution 25-1062 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- Resolution 25-1063 – Confirming Appointment of James Beltz as Full-Time Police Officer. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1063 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 Maxwell to approve Resolution 25-1063 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Chief Freyhof introduced James Beltz to council. Mr. Beltz was sworn in as a Full-Time Police Officer by Mayor Huffman with the reading of the Oath of Office.

Police Chief Freyhof invited Sergeant Styles and Officer McVety to the front of the room for awards. Sergeant Styles awarded Officer McVety the Award of Excellence honoring his demonstration of growth, professionalism and readiness. Chief Freyhof awarded Sergeant Styles a Commendation for Meritorious Conduct for his exceptional service, professionalism and dedication.

Police Chief Freyhof awarded both Councilor Maxwell and Councilor Wallace a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication in serving the village. Mayor Huffman awarded both Councilor Maxwell and Councilor Wallace a Certificate of Recognition for their years of service. Councilor Maxwell has served on council from 2010 to 2025 and Councilor Wallace has served on council from 2014 to 2025.

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Councilor Smith noted that the live Christmas tree looks great and thanked all those involved in cutting it down, moving it and decorating.

New Business:

- Dale Frymyer, from the United Christian Services of Indian Lake Food Pantry, thanked council for their decision to forgo the food pantry's rent payment for the 4th quarter of 2025 and the 1st quarter of 2026. Mr. Frymyer provided a handout to council for proposed process flow improvements at the pantry with the goal to improve the food pantry process flow by targeting the elimination of congestion and safety concerns. Mr. Frymyer also proposed, at the food pantry's expense, to remove the current single man door and install a double door allowing access wide enough for pallets to be placed inside and installing LED lights in the food pantry. Mayor Huffman stated that he had no objection to the improvements. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow the food pantry to install a double door and to waive a zoning permit fee, if a fee is required. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Village Administrator Deanna Roe discussed the Christmas and New Year's holiday schedule and recommends that Christmas Eve be considered an 8-hour holiday and New Year's Eve be considered a 4-hour holiday. Both December 26th and January 2nd, employees can take the day off without pay or use accrued vacation or banked holiday hours. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to make changes to the holiday schedule as recommended by Administrator Roe. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Iiams distributed a letter, addressed to the Board of Logan County Commissioners, supporting the pursuit of EDA "Readiness" funds to develop a comprehensive plan and feasibility study for a regional water system at Indian Lake. Mayor Huffman stated that he had sent the letter to the Village Solicitor for review. Council agreed to sign the letter and asked that Mayor Huffman give written confirmation to all of council once the Village Solicitor has reviewed the letter before forwarding the letter on to the county commissioners.

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

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed