

Village of Russells Point
June 16, 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 Courts/Admin Assistant), Daniel Bey (Village Solicitor), Joe Freyhof (Chief of Police), Nicholas Jarman (Police Officer), Ann Elleman, Sharon DeVault, Robin Michaels, Liz Gibson

Mayor Huffman and Fiscal Officer McGuire explained the urgency to set a special council meeting with the USDA to close on the loan used for the storm drain improvement project. Council agreed to call a special meeting on June 24th, 2025, at 7:00 PM for the purpose to close the loan as it pertains to the storm drain improvement project. Village Solicitor Daniel Bey will contact the USDA to inquire about obtaining the required documents earlier for council to sign.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated June 2, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the May 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 6-0. Motion passed.

Maintenance:

- The maintenance report was submitted to council. Councilor Iiams noted that the weeds around the water well heads were burned off and no herbicide was used.

Police:

- The police department had 437 calls for service in May.
- Chief Freyhof has issued 22 notices of violations within the village for weeds and litter, 19 of these violations have been resolved.
- GovDeals netted \$4,811.56 in proceeds from the sale of different lots that included cars, motorcycle, bikes, miscellaneous office equipment, etc.
- Chief Freyhof stated that Miller Graphics will replace the graphics on the police cruiser.
- Chief Freyhof thanked Councilor Maxwell for the chicken dinner provided to village employees.
- The village's newest police officer, Officer Westly McVety, is doing a great job and Mayor Huffman read a letter received by the village congratulating the village on the hiring of Officer McVety's as he is served in the active military.
- Chief Freyhof and Administrator Mitchell have met with the county health department to discuss structures that may need to be condemned.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council. Councilor Smith inquired about the Board of Zoning Appeals granted permission for the removal and rebuilding of a tornado damaged, residential structure. Ms. Gauder was in the E. Wilgus Drive area.

Parks & Recreation:

- Councilor Hinterschied noted that the kid's craft day held on June 10th (rock painting) had 16 kids in attendance. The next kid's craft day is July 8th (making birdhouses) from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting minutes dated April 9th, 2025 to council. Council did not have any questions or comments.

Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report to council. Councilor Iiams noted that federal funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was cut for the 2026 year. Councilor Iiams asked all to write letters to our Ohio State Senators to keep CDBG funding in the budget.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 25-1053 – Certifying Unpaid Charges for Services Performed by the Village and Authorizing County Auditor to Place Delinquent Amounts on Tax Duplicates for Collection. Council discussed amending Resolution 25-1053 to remove the weed/litter assessment at 502 Fairview Avenue. Council passed Resolution 25-1052 at the last council meeting to remove weed assessments for the same property, per the request of the Logan County Commissioners. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1053 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 amended Resolution 25-1053 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Wallace voting against. **Motion** passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Robin Michaels inquired about the county health department condemning structures and how long it will take. Chief Freyhof stated that the health department communicated that it would be 2 years before they would take action against tornado damaged structures that may need to be condemned. Ms. Gauder stated that the LUC could add these properties to the list as possible land bank demolitions.

Old Business:

- Mayor Huffman 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. It would also allow residents to report issues to the village (water leaks, animal control). The first-year cost of the proposal is \$3,500, which includes a \$1,000 set up fee, with a recurring cost of \$2,500 thereafter. Mayor Huffman, Administrator Mitchell, Chief Freyhof, Councilor Reid and Councilor Smith previously viewed a demonstration of how the text message app works and its benefits to the residents. Council expressed concern on getting village residents to buy into using the app and its affordability. Councilor Wallace, Councilor Maxwell and Council Iiams agreed that the new electronic sign, in front of the municipal building, should be used to get information out to village residents. Councilor Hinterschied noted the importance of getting information out to the public quickly. Councilor Reid noting that the text message app would allow the village to get information out in real time but could be a headache for the Chief of Police and Village Administrator due to the possibility of the village receiving several text messages. Mayor Huffman asked Administrator Mitchell to schedule another demonstration, to take place during a future council meeting, so all could watch.

New Business:

- Councilor Smith asked council to revisit the Ordinance 25-1257 that imposed a 6-month moratorium regarding the retail sale of medical and/or adult use marijuana. The 6-month time period is about to expire.
- Councilor Reid inquired about the completion date of the new sign to be installed along with the electronic sign in front of the municipal building. Mayor Huffman will get the digital Russells Point logo to John Watkins for the new sign. Council noted that the address of the municipal building should be placed on the building itself, as it is a village zoning requirement.
- Councilor Wallace inquired about the maintenance on water well #5 that is scheduled for this year. Councilor Wallace also asked about placing an advertisement for a village water superintendent. Mayor Huffman noted that in previous advertisements, there was little interest. Mayor Huffman stated that Village Solicitor Daniel Bey is working on a contract with the Village of Lakeview for their services regarding Russells Point's water needs.
- Councilor Wallace asked council if there was interest in a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) program. Council noted that the issue is due to the lack of sidewalks in certain areas of the village and there is no right-a-way to install sidewalks due to how close the houses are to the streets. Chief Frehof noted that it is a safety issue without having accessible sidewalks.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 8:13 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed