

## Village of Russells Point

May 5, 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.

**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 Traul, Jeff Patten, Pat Tynan, Robin Michaels, Doug Chamberlain, Lindsey Miller, Gary Hines, Bill Hines, Fred Warren, Liz Gibson, Brian Imm.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated April 21, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

#### Reports:

##### Mayor's Court

- The April 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$1,585 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Maxwell the April 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

##### Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Ordinance 25-1260 – Authorize the Hiring of a Village Administrator. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 25-1260 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 25-1260 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 25-1261 - Abolish the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 25-1261 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 Smith to approve Ordinance 25-1261 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 25-1262 – Determination Period of Tax Exemption for Improvement to the Indian Lake Yacht Club. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Reid to waive the 3-reading rule on Ordinance 25-1262 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Wallace voting against. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Ordinance 25-1262 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Wallace voting no. Motion passed. Councilor Reid noted that Ordinance 25-1262 was redrafted as discussed at the council meeting held on April 21, 2025. Councilor Smith stated that Village Solicitor Daniel Bey is drafting a CRA agreement to incorporate the conditions of exemption agreed upon by the Village of Russells Point and the Indian Lake Yacht Club that is to be signed by both parties. Howard Traul noted that the ordinance meets the satisfaction of the Indian Lake Yacht Club and the club is investing \$450,000 - \$500,000 for property improvements which will at least triple the club's real estate taxes in future years.

##### Citizens' Comments:

- Lindsey Miller, 208 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, asked council what could be done to clean up 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Ms. Miller noted that there are houses that are in poor condition, trash issues, feral cats and even raccoon problems in the neighborhood. Councilor Reid noted that there are issues on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and is not sure how these issues can be handled. Police Officer Nick Jarman asked Ms. Miller for a list of the issues so that the police department could do code enforcement.

- Fred Warren stated that council has a village to operate and local schools need to be funded and expressed dissatisfaction with Ordinance 25-1262 that allows tax exemption for the Indian Lake Yacht Club.

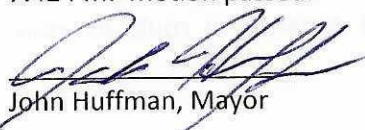
#### Old Business:

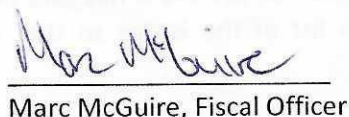
- Land & Buildings and the Tree Commission will conduct a joint meeting on May 12, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the municipal building to discuss trees in the village, the drainage issue in front of the municipal building and the placement of the splash pad.
- Mayor Huffman recommends to council the appointment of Kirk Slusher, 134 Wilgus Court, to the Planning Commission. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the appointment of Kirk Slusher to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1 with Councilor Wallace voting no. Motion passed. All seats for the Planning Commission are now filled.

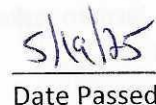
#### New Business:

- Fiscal Officer informed council that the Julian & Grube, Independent Public Accountants for the Auditor of State of Ohio, will conduct a singer year audit for 2024 due to the village using over \$750,000 in federal funds (from a USDA grant) for the storm tile improvements project. Julian & Grube estimated that the audit would take approximately 170 hours to complete at cost of \$70/hour (total cost estimate \$11,900).
- Councilor Reid stated that, with the hiring of a Village Administrator, the employee handbook/policy manual needs to be updated.
- Councilor Reid noted that the electronic marquee sign for the village should be installed within the next two weeks. Dianne Gauder stated that a permit needs to be issued prior to the installation. The electronic sign will be placed at the municipal building.
- Councilor liams questioned why council members do not have keys/key fobs for access to the municipal building. **Motion** was made by Councilor liams and seconded by Councilor Wallace to allow council members to have access to the municipal building using keys/key fobs. A roll call vote was taken and council voted to a 3-3 tie, with Councilor Reid, Councilor Smith and Councilor Hinterschied voting against. To break the tie, Mayor Huffman voted no. Motion failed. Councilor Reid suggested that the municipal building doors could be unlocked 30 minutes prior to any meeting held in the building. After council discussion regarding the need for access, **motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to allow the Council President Pro-Tempore to have keys/key fob for access to the municipal building. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor liams noted that tomorrow, May 6<sup>th</sup>, is election day and encouraged all to vote.
- Mayor Huffman stated that Cobblestone Hotel & Suites is having a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6, 2025 at 11:30 AM.
- Councilor Hinterschied noted that the Parks Committee will meet twice a month. The meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the municipal building.
- Councilor Reid stated that village employees do not have Village of Russells Point attire to wear. Councilor Reid suggested that council allow employees an allowance at an online retail store to purchase village clothing.
- Councilor Reid noted that he, Mayor Huffman, Councilor Maxwell and Village Administrator Mitchell met with the Village of Lakeview to discuss/review the water services provided by Lakeview due to Russells Point not currently having an employee with a water license. Both villages were pleased with the rates to be paid for the water services. Village Solicitor Daniel Bey is involved in drafting an agreement between both villages for the services provided by Lakeview.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor liams to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Motion passed.

  
John Huffman, Mayor

  
Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

  
Date Passed