

Village of Russells Point

September 2, 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. Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire was also present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), Joe Freyhof (Chief of Police), Morgan Styles (Police Sergeant), Ann Elleman, Sharon DeVault, Chad Fenwick, Liz Gibson, Steve Hindenlang, Codie Styles, Karey Thompson, Julli Greisheimer, Mike Jarusrewic, Dale Frymyer, Randy Sullivan

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated August 18, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Tornado Volunteer Recognition/Presentation:

- Mayor Huffman spoke on the relief efforts provided by several individuals from a tornado that struck on March 14, 2024 and thanked all who were involved for their service. Police Sergeant Styles shared his story and experience from the devastation of the tornado and stated the support from village residents and the local community was amazing to witness. Sergeant Styles and Mayor Huffman presented Chief of Police Freyhof a State of Ohio Certificate of Recognition in helping the community in the wake of a devastating tornado signed by Governor Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel. Chief of Police Freyhof shared his story of all the wonderful and committed people who helped conduct and coordinated relief efforts after the tornado. Chief of Police Freyhof gave each individual (Police Sergeant Morgan Styles, Chad Fenwick, Jerrod Bowman, Karey Thompson, Robin Reames, Rebekah Smith, Julli Greisheimer, Mike Jarusiewic, Dale Frymyer, Randy Sullivan, Dianne Gauder, Jason Lambert) an accommodation bar as not just a token of appreciation and gratitude, but as a badge of honor for their leadership, care, and commitment for the community.

Reports:

Indian Joint Fire District:

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

Citizen Comments: none

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 25-1058 – Accepting Tax Levies and Certifying with the County Auditor. The resolution provides an updated revenue estimate and the status of each levy in the village. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 25-1058 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 Resolution 25-1058 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Council discussed a quote from Tim Herbst (National Pavement Analysis, LLC) to provide a street pavement analysis. The quote totals \$3,950. Mayor Huffman stated Choice One Engineering provided an estimate of \$5,000 - \$10,000 to provide the same street analysis. Mayor Huffman recommends using Tim Herbst for the analysis and allowing him, the mayor, to sign the contract. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to have the mayor enter

into a contract with Tim Herbst (National Pavement Analysis, LLC) to provide a street pavement analysis. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- Councilor Wallace inquired about the storm sewer easement agreement to plant shrubs along the easement behind the municipal building. Councilor Wallace stated that the plants/shrubs planted earlier this season are dead and new plants/shrubs will need to be planted.
- Councilor Wallace noted that the brush pile behind the municipal building needs to be cleaned up.
- Councilor Wallace inquired about the construction trailer parked at the water plant and asked why the trailer was there and if there was work being done. It was noted that it will be looked into as why there is a construction trailer at the water plant.
- Councilor Wallace inquired about the preventative maintenance on water well #5 and why it has not been completed and also noted that the village needs to have their own village employee run the water plant.
- Councilor Wallace noted that Verizon has finally cleaned up the lot rented to them by the village, but the brush is piled in the corner and needs to be cleaned up.
- Councilor Wallace noticed a new fire hydrant located behind the municipal building and stated that it should be brought inside to protect against theft.
- Councilor Wallace asked that with the changes to the municipal building lot storm drainage project, if another quote is needed. Mayor Huffman stated that Reichert Excavating knows of the minor changes and agreed that the first estimated quote is sufficient.

New Business:

- Fiscal Officer McGuire reviewed the consulting proposal from Julian & Grube to develop and implement Uniform Guidance Policies and Procedures. The proposal includes a fee of \$1,500 to be paid to Julian & Grube for their services to establish the needed policies and procedures. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to have the Fiscal Officer sign the proposal from Julian & Grube to help develop and implement Uniform Guidance Policies and Procedures. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Fiscal Officer McGuire informed council that the Central Collection Agency (CCA) is in the process of mailing delinquency notices to village residents that have failed to file their 2022 Individual City Tax Form. Any correspondence regarding the letter must be directed to the CCA and not the village.
- Fiscal Officer McGuire noted that he has spoken with 2 different brokers regarding village employee health insurances, USI Insurances and Stolly Insurance. WayPoint Benefits is the current "Agent of Record" for the village. If a change of a health insurance broker is wanted, an "Agent of Record" letter needs to be submitted in order for other brokers to shop around health insurance rates. Council agreed to the change in Agent of Record.
- Sharon DeVault inquired about the ordinance codification and how it has not been updated. Fiscal Officer McGuire stated that American Legal is currently in process of the codification.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to enter into an executive session and to invite Village Solicitor Daniel Bey into the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and Council and Village Solicitor Bey entered into the executive session at 7:45 PM. At 8:16 PM, council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to exit the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and council resumed the open meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire as the "Interim Village Administrator". 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 liams and seconded by Councilor Smith to remove the probationary period for employee Mason James and increase his rate of pay by \$2.00/hour retroactive to the current pay period. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Wallace voting against. Motion passed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed