

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Thursday, August 15, 2024 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Alex Seger
Nicole Doseck
Mary Jo High
Scott Armstrong
Jake Borchers
Brandon Simon

Non-members present: Jared Goubeaux, Administrator, Mary Jo Voisard, Fiscal Officer, Craig Albers, Village Solicitor, Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering, Sidney Daily News editor and reporter, and Adam Barga of ELO Properties, LLC.

- The minutes of the July 10, 2024 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Simon and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Borchers to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Doseck and seconded by High to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.

Police

Sheriff Frye was not present at the meeting, so there was no report of police activity.

Finance

Voisard said that the year to date income tax receipts are still higher than 2023, but St. Marys tax department said there is a large refund pending. The final paperwork on that has not yet been received. She reported that interest receipts from Star Ohio were \$14,576.71 with a 30 day yield of 5.43% during July.

Voisard reported that the Village has now received the final payment for the Pavilion/Splash pad Natureworks grant, in the amount of \$236,968.42. A payment of \$140,000 has been received from the Russia CIC from the sale of Buschur's market, and the payment from CEMLEB for the Village portion of the OSIP grant in the amount of \$160,820. Due to these receipts, Voisard said she invested an additional \$400,000 in Star Ohio.

Voisard said that the advance that was made to the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$150,000 can now be returned to the General Fund as a result of the above revenue. Borchers moved and Seger seconded the motion to return the \$150,000 advance back to the general fund.

Lift Station Upgrade Grant

Goubeaux said that he met with Choice One Engineering to discuss preliminary plans for the Lift Station upgrade. He said it would be necessary to shut down at least one lane of traffic on Main Street for several months. He said a second option would be to run another line to bypass Main Street, but Council did not feel that this would be a good option. He will report back when plans are more concrete.

Commerce Drive update

Goubeaux said the final work has not been completed by Adam Sturm. He plans to send a letter to him requesting that the company fine grade and reseed the entire detention basin at Commerce Park by September 13, 2024. If the work is not completed to the Village's satisfaction the Village will file a claim against the maintenance bond of this project.

Paving

Selhorst said that the paving started today, and they had nearly completed the park path paving. He said they would be doing St. Remy Street, Main Street and Francis Street on August 16. Goubeaux said that they had quoted a price to do the Village Office parking lot. The quote was \$10,550 for paving and striping if they completed it while they are here. Seger moved and Borchers seconded the motion to approve the expenditure. All yea, motion passed.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash Pad

Goubeaux said Payment Application 8 has been received from Level MB. He said all of the items on the punch list have now been completed, and the repair of the Splashpad is scheduled for later in August. He asked that council approve paying 60% of the Pay application, or \$58,251.06. This would still leave \$38,834.05 of the retainage until the splashpad repairs are finished. Borchers said he felt Council members should go back and check things over again before the last of the retainage is released. High moved and Simon seconded the motion to pay \$58,251.06. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux said that the splash pad is scheduled to be shut down the week of August 19 for repair of the leak.

Resolution Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission.

Voisard said that each year it is necessary to pass a resolution accepting the tax rates and amounts. The unvoted millage remains at 1.2 mills and will generate \$34,482. The EMS levy is 1 mill and will generate \$21,794. Borchers moved and Seger seconded the motion approving **Resolution 24-8-15 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.** All yea, motion passed.

AT&T

Albers said he had met with AIO (AT&T) about the 99 year contract. He said although none of the current council members would be around when this lease is concluded, he felt that it gave them too much leverage to enter into other sub contracts at the end of that lease. Council agreed, and decided to just remain with the monthly payment plan that is already in existence.

Park Restrooms

Goubeaux said that Weigandt will be starting on the restroom renovation soon.

Lighting at the former Buschur's Market Parking Lot

Goubeaux said that Aiden Shappie will be installing one of the lights in the ELO parking lot, but it is still under discussion. He said a manhole had been paved over at some point in the ELO parking lot, and a new one has been ordered. He said that ELO would like to have the parking lot repaved, possibly as soon as next year. He said that the ODOT grant for the crosswalk sign has been approved. He said that he has not received the quote for additional signage, but would try to have it for the next meeting.

Voisard St./Borchers St. reseeding

Goubeaux said the rough grading has been completed by Village employees. He said that the reseeding is scheduled to start on August 19. Daugherty said that homeowners would be responsible for watering after it is seeded, but that their water/sewer bills will be adjusted so they aren't charged for more than their normal usage during the period that they are watering.

Community Reinvestment Area Agreement

A motion to suspend the rules was made by High and seconded by Simon.

Doseck moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 24-19 Authorizing the Village of Russia to enter into a Community Reinvestment Agreement with ELO Properties, LLC, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

This agreement gives a 10 year 100% real estate tax abatement for improvements made to the property owned by ELO properties.

Miscellaneous

Daugherty said he knows the Village voted not to pursue the lightning alarm system, but he has learned of a phone app that would give warnings of severe weather. He said the Village would need to pay an annual fee, but coaches

could then download the app on their phones so they are aware of approaching storms. He said he wants to check out a demonstration first.

Several council members said that the park has a lot of clover. Goubeaux said they would look at getting it sprayed this fall.

Simon moved and Borchers seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel and possible land acquisition.

Doseck moved and Seger seconded the motion to leave executive session.
No action was taken.

Simon moved and Seger seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Ricky Stephan effective August 23, 2024.
All yea, motion passed.

Armstrong moved and Borchers seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____