

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

July 13, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at the village office at 232 W. Main St. Mayor Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ron Simon
Greg Borchers
Mary Jo High
Cindy Goubeaux
Absent: Larry Platfoot
John Grogean

Non-members present: Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Justin Spillers, Sheriff John Lenhart, Kristopher Dershem, Leah Dershem, and April Hoying. April Hoying was observing for classes to obtain a Superintendent's License.

- The minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting were read, and a motion was made by High, and seconded by Simon to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Borchers and seconded by Simon to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Borchers to approve the financial reports for the preceding month. All yea, motion passed.

Police

Sheriff Lenhart went over the police activity report for the previous month. He said that activity during June was routine for the most part. Shappie asked if the Sheriff's Department would enforce parking ordinances. Lenhart said that if they had a copy of the ordinance, they would enforce violations.

Annexation

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Simon and seconded by Goubeaux. All yea, motion passed.

High moved and Borchers seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 16-7** Authorizing the Village to enter into an annexation agreement with Loramie Township and Craig Borchers annexing certain territory containing 1.76 acres, more or less, located in Loramie Township to the Village of Russia, Ohio, and declaring the same to be an emergency. All yea, motion passed.

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Borchers. All yea, motion passed.

Simon moved, and High seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 16-7-13** indicating the services which the Village of Russia, Ohio will provide to certain territory proposed for annexation, and declaring an emergency. All yea, motion passed.

OPWC Projects

Shappie reported that the Notice to Proceed had not yet been received from Ohio Public Works, so the contract could not be awarded. The contract must be awarded by July 25, 2016, so a special meeting will be held as soon as the notice to proceed is received.

Employment

High moved, and Borchers seconded the motion to hire Robert Simon as part time maintenance worker at a salary of \$12 per hour. All yea, motion passed.

Park

Goubeaux and High reported on the progress of the Playground Committee. Quotes have been received from Gametime and Miracle Midwest. Quotes are similar in price, and both companies have good reputations. It was decided that the playground location will be moved to the area behind the tennis courts. Shappie will get quotes on site work that will need to be done prior to installation of the equipment. Council set a budget of \$100,000 to supplement the anonymous donation.

Shappie said that the walking path to Diamond 5 will be paved when East Main St. is repaved. Simon mentioned that the flag pole behind Diamond 3 is leaning. Shappie said it will be fixed soon.

Miscellaneous

Kristopher Dershem addressed Council asking for an extension for his family to stay in the Village owned house at 113 Main Street. He said that he has been unable to find a residence for his family of 6. High said that she has a problem with granting the extension unless the property is cleaned up to look more presentable. Dershem said that he would do that, and would catch up on the past due rent and utility payments. Council agreed to grant the extension as long as these conditions were met.

Shappie reported the recalled fire hydrant nozzles have all been replaced. He said painting of all hydrants will begin later this month by village employees.

Simon said that he has met with the Wellness Committee, and with Marion Spicer of The Community Foundation of Shelby County. It was decided that the gazebo/downtown park campaign should be delayed until after the Wellness Committee Facilities Campaign is completed.

Shappie said that the wood pile has been ground, and all ground materials at the sewage plant have been reground into finer mulch. The Village will be using this mulch in future years, at a savings of approximately \$800 per year. Council decided that since there is a lot of excess mulch, it will be offered to the public at no cost.

Shappie said that the owners of the Elevator have met the conditions to correct violations, so no penalties will be imposed.

Shappie said that he and Councilman Grogean met with Jon Heffner and Father Fox regarding economic development of the downtown area. He said that he feels that it would be beneficial to establish a committee to address this issue. He will contact community members to serve on this committee.

Greg Borchers presented proposals for a sign for the Village Office. He said he felt that Superior Aluminum may be willing to donate the framework for the sign. Council liked several of the designs he presented. He will get further information to present at the August meeting.

As discussed at the last meeting, the library landscaping is in need of improvement. Grogean received quotes from Gehret Nursery to remove and replace all plants, at a cost of \$4,476. Mayor Daugherty said he felt that the quote contained too many plants, which would require a lot of maintenance. Shappie said that Village employees could easily remove the current plants rather than hiring it done. It was decided that Village employees would remove the necessary plants, reassess the situation, and proceed from there.

Shappie said he had checked to see if there is a solution to the problem of stray cats in the Village. He said that the only solution recommended is trapping the cats, and hiring a veterinarian to spay or neuter them, then to release them. The cost for the surgery would be approximately \$45 per animal. Council did not feel that the solution was feasible. He also checked to see if Ohio Revised Code required dog owners to install a fence around their yard. There is no requirement for a fence as long as the dogs do not leave the yard. There is also no law requiring dogs to be on a leash on public property as long as the owner has control of the dog.

Shappie checked with various contractors to see if it would be possible to install a concrete channel on the creek bottom to prevent further erosion. None of them felt that it would be a good solution, because the creek bed is too flat and debris would collect.

Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Ron Simon _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____