

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES June 10, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council

Nicole Doseck, absent
Scott Armstrong, absent
Tony Bergman
Jake Borchers
Brandon Simon
Alex Seger
Mary Jo High, Mayor

Non-Members Present

Jared Goubeaux – Administrator
Nick Selhorst – Choice One
Chris Ellington – Solicitor
Dee Kearns- Fiscal Officer

Community Members

Regular Business

- The minutes of the May 12, 2026 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Simon and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by Seger to approve the bills as presented. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Borchers and seconded by Bergman to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yeas, motion passed.

Finance Report

- Investment Income
 - STAR Ohio – Balance \$4,249,513.34 – Income dividend \$13,474.96 (3.79%)
 - Osgood Bank – Balance \$915,133.02 – April Interest \$867.56
 - \$400,000 was transferred from Osgood account to Star Ohio on May 5, 2026.
- Income Tax Receipts
 - May (St. Mary's) - \$67,909.63. This is an increase of 12.96% over this time last year.
 - May received directly from the State of Ohio - \$73,0561.33
 - We are 21% ahead of receipts from last year
- No further information regarding the audit has been received from the State at this time
- Kearns requested a motion to approve **Resolution 26-6-10** to transfer \$150,000 from the Enterprise Improvement fund to the water fund to meet current expenses. Bergman moved and Simon seconded. All yeas, motion passed.

Sheriff's Report

- Sheriff couldn't be present for the meeting. Report from his office was reviewed and there was nothing of note to discuss.

Choice One Report

- Selhorst reported that the bid advertisement for the OPWC sewer lining project was taking place and the bid opening will take place on June 25th. We have been awarded 1 grant, but it will be handled as two projects; manholes and liner.
- Selhorst also report that there is a plan to apply for a grant in 2027 to defray the cost to dredge lagoon #1.
- A curing letter was received regarding the federal grant application that was submitted for the industrial park. Choice One is address the open questions/issues noted on the letter and will submit the reply.

General Business

- Water Tower Painting - this is scheduled for the fall.
- Sewer tie-ins for the annexed properties is in process. The boring is complete and waiting for tie ins. Working with Ruhenkamp Boring regarding the tie-in to the manholes.
- There is some maintenance required on Lagoon #4. Dan Paulus is being asked to investigate and Goubeaux to reach out to contractors.
- Diamond 2 lights - waiting on 6 breakers to be delivered and installed to finalize the project. Goubeaux plans to send a message out to the public when the lights will be lit for the first time.
- Drinking fountain grant - we have been notified that we received the grant but we are still waiting on the final paperwork to be received.
- The Ford F-150 pickup truck was sold on GovDeals.com for \$12,500. The truck was picked up and the payment received.
- Goubeaux reported that he was looking to get bids to replace the fence around the dumpsters near diamond 3. Simon noted that the Wellness Committee is considering an expansion of the walking path out and around that diamond and is considering helping to defray the cost.
- Goubeaux noted that once the Bensman property closing takes place and the existing structure is torn down, the council should consider rezoning that lot to commercial use only. Goubeaux plans to call a meeting of the zoning committee prior to the July council meeting.
- Ellington presented Ordinance 26-9 for approval. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Seger and seconded by Borchers. All yea, motion passed. Simon moved and Bergman seconded a motion to approve ORDINANCE 26-9 AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF RUSSIA, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH MARIAN BENSMAN, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF RUSSIA, OHIO TO CLOSE THE TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. All yea, motion passed.
- Ellington presented a proposed amendment to Ordinance 02-13. Council entertained the first reading of said amendment to this Ordinance. The proposed changes are the addition of:

- *Section 10: REMOVAL OF INOPERATIVE VEHICLES. If the owner of occupant of any premises fails to remove or house any inoperative motor vehicles, motor vehicle unfit for further use , or motor vehicles parts within five (5) days of services of notice of their violations, the Village Administrator or anyone designated by them , is hereby authorized to enter upon private property for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance and remove any such inoperative motor vehicle, motor vehicle unfit for further use, or motor vehicle parts. Such inoperative motor vehicle, motor vehicle unfit for further use, or motor vehicle parts shall be impounded until lawfully claimed or disposed of in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. The Village shall assess the owner or occupant of the Premises the actual cost of such removal and the cost of daily storage costs. Daily storage costs shall be a minimum of fifteen dollars (\$15) per day.*
- A discussion of this amendment took place. Legal counsel was requested to make the following modifications to be reviewed during the July meeting:
 - Add a definition of vehicle
 - Add watercraft
 - Remove “the daily storage costs” and instead say the “actual cost incurred to the village”.
- Council agreed that fines will not be assessed at this time while the ordinance is being amended.

Mayor's Notes

- Simon met with representatives to both the Russia Wellness committee members and the Russia Park Board. Project ideas are:
 - Walking path on the west side of diamond 3 - Goubeaux to look into a quote for this
 - Options to increase/enhance parking in and around the park
 - Concession stand - discussing ideas for a new concession stand near Diamond 2.
- Borchers spoke with Brett Schulze regarding St. Joe's place and for the village to have first right of refusal to purchase the property if Schulze decides to sell it some point in the future.
- Goubeaux to get pricing to potentially replace some the picnic tables at the park.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Bergman. Second - Borchers. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Jake Borchers _____

Clerk, Deidre Kearns _____