

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES September 8, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council

Nicole Doseck
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

None Present

Regular Business

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

Finance Report

- Investment Income
 - STAR Ohio – Balance \$4,290,757.27 – Income dividend \$14,006.79(3.86%)
 - Osgood Bank – Balance \$925,241.79 Interest \$793.45
- Income Tax Receipts
 - August (St. Mary's) - \$62,257.26. This is an increase of 1.38% over this time last year.
 - No receipts directly from the state this month.
- Income Tax Collections
 - Kearns reported that the 3-year contract with the City of St. Marys for our income tax collections is up for renewal and requested a motion to renew the contact at the same rate of 3.25% of collections. Motion by Doseck. Seconded by Seger. All ye, motion passed.
- Real Estate Taxes
 - Kearns reported that the second settlement for the year has not yet been received from the county. The settlement is expected sometime in the next two days and will be reported to council in the October meeting.

Sheriff's Report

- Sheriff Frye was unable to attend the meeting but noted in an email that there was no unusual activity to report.

Choice One Report

- OPWC Sewer lining project - the camera review of the sewer lines has been completed and the cleaning and relining has begun on the west side of the village. This part of the project will be completed this fall.
- School detention pond project - Selhorst noted that Choice One has reviewed the schools plans for their project noting no issues to the village.
- EDA Grant for the Industrial Park Development - The Village received official notification from the Economic Development Administration that we have been awarded a grant for this development project. The total estimated project cost is \$1.886 million, including a \$1.131 million EDA grant award. The first step will be to schedule a kickoff meeting with the EDA to discuss the next steps.
- OPWC 2027 projects - Lagoon #1 dredging - Selhorst noted that Choice One is waiting on some more budget numbers to complete the grant application.

General Business

- Goubeaux reported that the sewer tie-in work on the east side of town has been completed.
- The tank for the water tower repainting will arrive next week. Once that has been received the project will kick-off. The splash pad will be closed down once this project is underway to decrease the amount of water needed during the process.
- Goubeaux reported that he received approval for the type of water fountains being purchased for the grant we received earlier this summer. He will proceed with the purchase of those.
- After further discussion regarding the paving needed in the village, a new quote was received from Walls Brothers in the amount of \$60,520 for the paving of miscellaneous end of driveways and the base, middle and final coat on Commerce Drive. Goubeaux requested a motion to approve this quote. Borchers motioned. Simon seconded. All yea, motion passed.
- Council reviewed the outcome of the planning commission meeting which took place just prior to the council meeting.
- Council members confirmed availability for the October council meeting to take place as regularly scheduled on Wednesday October 14th at 7pm.
- Trick or Treat in the village was set for Thursday October 29th from 6-7:30pm.

Grid Growth West

- High reported that Grid Growth Ventures has filed a pre-application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). High has drafted an informative letter which will be mailed to each resident of the village.
- High requested a motion to pass **Resolution 26-9-1 of the village of Russia, Ohio, expressing strong opposition to the proposed Grid Growth Ventures 765-KV extra-high-voltage transmission line project as currently routed, demanding structural modifications, and authoring legal representation to intervene before the Ohio Power Siting board and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.** Seger motioned. Simon seconded. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was also requested to allow High to move forward with choosing and entering into legal representation for the village in regard to this project (Case 26-0809-EL-BTX). Borchers motioned. Doseck seconded. All yea, motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Bergman. Second – Seger. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Jake Borchers _____

Clerk, Deidre Kearns _____