

**Village of Russells Point
January 5, 2026
Council Meeting**

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Huffman asked all in attendance to stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of former mayor, Robin Reames. Mayor Huffman then read a Proclamation in Remembrance of Mayor Robin Reames with her passing on January 3, 2026. The proclamation acknowledged Ms. Reames accomplishments, cheerfulness, caring and willingness to help everyone and her dedication to the village.

Anne Elleman, Liz Gibson, and Rebekah Smith were sworn in by Mayor Huffman with the reading of the Oath of Office and their terms on council concludes December 31, 2029.

Roll Call: Council members Anne Elleman, Liz Gibson, Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Steve Reid, and Rebekah Smith were present. Village Administrator Deanna Roe and Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire were also present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder, AshLee Hullinger, Sharon DeVault, Tom Elleman, Ernest Gibson, David Wallace, Robin Michaels, Kim Werner, John Snyder, Eric Werner, Daniel Bey (Village Solicitor).

Mayor Huffman asked for Council President Pro-Tempore be elected. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to nominate all members of council for the position of Council President Pro-Tempore. 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 close nominations for the position of Council President Pro-Tempore. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Councilor Elleman, Councilor Gibson, Councilor Hinterschied and Councilor Smith withdrew their nomination. A roll call vote was taken to elect either Councilor Iiams or Councilor Reid as Council President Pro-Tempore. With Councilor Iiams and Councilor Elleman voting to elect Councilor Iiams as Council President Pro-Tempore and Councilor Gibson, Councilor Hinterschied, Councilor Reid and Councilor Smith voting to elect Councilor Reid as Council President Pro-Tempore. By a roll call vote of 4-2, Councilor Reid was elected as Councilor President Pro-Tempore. Councilor Reid accepts the position of Council President Pro-Tempore.

Approval of Council Rules for 2026:

Councilor Smith asked for a copy of the Council Rules for 2025 to compare any changes made to the Council Rules for 2026. Council requested that Village Solicitor Daniel Bey make a note of all changes to the Council Rules for 2026 and present to council at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Reid to accept the current Council Rules of 2025 until the formal Council Rules of 2026 are presented to council. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams to schedule a Rules and Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss Council Rules of 2026. Both Mayor Huffman and Councilor Smith noted that the Rules and Ordinance Committee meeting should be scheduled after adoption of the Council Rules of 2026. Councilor Iiams withdrew his motion. Councilor Reid suggested that the previous council minutes and any resolutions/ordinances be distributed to those in attendance at council meetings and be available next to the public sign in sheet for attendance at the council meeting. Council agreed.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to

Citizen Comments:

- Robin Michaels noted that she is having issues with her trash pickup and asked if council would consider a village trash pickup service or contracted vendor. Councilor Reid noted that it is not cost effective for small villages to offer trash pickup services.
- Eric Werner asked about the process of how council members are elected and how a person could be appointed to a vacant council seat. Councilor Reid explained the processes of write-ins on a ballot and how a vacant council seat is filled. Mr. Werner also asked why resolutions/ordinances are passed as emergencies. Mayor Huffman explained the need to pass resolutions/ordinances as emergencies so that it can take effect immediately.
- Sharon DeVault asked who on council would be the next Indian Joint Fire Board member. Councilor Reid noted that the next fire board member will be appointed at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Mayor Huffman noted that he spoke with individuals about being a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There are currently 2 seats that need filled for the BZA. Mayor Huffman recommends the appointment of Robin Michaels to the BZA. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to appoint Robin Michaels to the BZA. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Mayor Huffman recommends the appointment of Ron Barlage to the BZA. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Gibson to appoint Ron Barlage to the BZA. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to close the municipal building on Thursday, January 8, 2025, for the funeral of Robin Reames. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to adjourn at 7:31 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed