

**Village of Russells Point**  
**April 6, 2026**  
**Council Meeting**

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

**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:** AshLee Hullinger, Sharon DeVault, David Wallace, Robin Michaels, Dianne Gauder, Clint Wasserman (Reminger Co., LPA), Chief of Police Joe Freyhof

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the council meeting minutes dated March 16, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

**Reports:**

**Parks:**

- Councilor Hinterschied stated that the basketball and pickleball courts has small holes on the surface. Councilor Hinterschied and Administrator Roe met with the contractor who installed the surface and noted that the holes are currently not an issue, but the courts should be re-surfaced every 5-7 years.

**Police:**

- Chief Freyhof stated that community Easter Egg Hunt was successful and thanked all who helped and supported.
- The police department received a grant for \$3,600 for their attendance at CIT training.
- Chief Freyhof assisted with the Ohio Chief of Police training and received Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) tuition credit for his assistance. The credit will be used for tuition reimbursement for any village police officer training attended by the Russells Point Police Department.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

- Resolution 26-1067, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading – Assessing and Certifying to County Auditor Unpaid Charges for Weed and Litter Removal. Mayor Huffman conducted the third and final reading of Resolution 26-1067. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and adopt Resolution 26-1067 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Ordinance 26-1274 – Enacting Title 11/Chapter 201, Indigent Burial to Provide for the Disposition of Indigent Village Residents. Mayor Huffman conducted the first reading of Ordinance 26-1274. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 26-1274. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. The second reading will be conducted at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.
- Councilor Reid asked why an ordinance (repealing chapter 95, unclaimed and abandoned vehicles of the 2026 edition of the Ohio Basic Codes adopted by Ordinance 26-1271 and replacing it with junk and abandoned motor vehicles and watercraft) was not read. Administrator Roe explained that there is possibly a conflict with the proposed ordinance and current ordinances. All agreed to have Daniel Bey, Village Solicitor, explain why the village was presented Ordinance 26-1271 adopting the Ohio Basic Code that is in conflict with current village ordinances.

**Citizen Comments:** none

**Old Business:**

- Mayor Huffman explained that council suspended Mayor's Court for 30 days at the March 2, 2026 council meeting. Council agreed to discuss Mayor's Court in an executive session which will be held at the end of the current council meeting.
- Council requested that a redline version of Council Rules (with the proposed changes as discussed by the Rules and Ordinance Committee) and the final draft version of the Council Rules be brought to council for a comparison of what is proposed to what is in the final draft. Administrator Roe will send both versions to council for review before voting on the adoption of Council Rules.

**New Business:**

- Mayor Huffman presented to Council a quote to purchase 3 different designs of banners for the 250<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the United States celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Councilor Reid suggested purchasing 2 banners each noting “USA 250” and order more banners with the United States Flag and “Russells Point” printed on those particular banners. The original quote from Mosca Design totaled \$1,806.80 (which includes banners and hardware to hang banners). **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Smith to purchase the banners and necessary hardware from Mosca Design, with the changes in how many banners to order from each design, at a cost not to exceed \$1,900.00. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Chief Freyhof asked council to approve the reimbursement of lodging for Sergeant Styles and Officer McVety for overnight stays while attending basic SWAT school. Chief Freyhof noted that Mayor Huffman approved the \$45 daily per diem (per IRS standard per diem rate) for both Sergeant Styles and Officer McVety. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the reimbursement of lodging for Sergeant Styles and Officer McVety while attending the basic SWAT school. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Chief Freyhof noted that both officers will travel together in the village owned Honda Ridgeline.
- Mayor Huffman distributed to council an email from Bill Quatman regarding the Our Lady of Fatima shrine at Indian Lake. The shrine was destroyed in the March 2024 tornado. A new shrine is being built and The American Society of Ephesus, Inc. will include a stainless-steel time capsule inside the shrine’s cornerstone that is to be opened in 100 years. The American Society of Ephesus, Inc. is asking for items to be placed in the time capsule and the deadline to submit such item is April 15, 2026.
- Councilor Iiams noted that he has received a State of Ohio Certificate from Ohio Secretary of State certifying the trade name renewal of “Indian Lake, Ohio” effective March 17, 2026. The name “Indian Lake, Ohio” is owned by the Village of Russells Point. The trademark expires on May 1, 2031.

**Executive Session:**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(5), matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to enter into an executive session and to invite Village Administrator Deanna Roe and Clint Wasserman into the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and council entered into the executive session at 7:42 PM. At 8:06 PM, council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Elleman to exit the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and council resumed the open meeting.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to suspend Mayor’s Court until December 31, 2026 which coincides with expiration of Mayor Huffman’s certificate to conduct Mayor’s Court. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Councilor Reid stated that this decision to suspend Mayor’s Court is no reflection of the job done by the existing Clerk of Court, the decision was based on minimizing village liability. Councilor Reid and council agreed that the existing Clerk of Court position is now an Administrative Assistant position with no cut in pay or reduction in hours worked.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Motion passed.

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John Huffman, Mayor

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Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

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Date Passed