

Village of Russells Point
June 15, 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, David Wallace, Sharon DeVault, Mary Jo Forgione, William Forgione
Dianne Gauder, Chief of Police Joe Freyhof

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated June 1, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the May 31, 2026 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. The ending bank balance as of May 31, 2026 totaled \$5,723,459.60. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Administrator:

- Village Administrator Deanna Roe submitted the administrator report to council. Administrator Roe noted that mosquito spraying, within the village, will begin June 24th and continue every week thereafter, weather permitting.

Police/Code Enforcement:

- Chief of Police Joe Freyhof submitted the police department report to council. In May, there were 684 calls for service. Chief Freyhof stated that Officer Beltz will begin bike patrol soon. It was also noted that Chief Freyhof attended the OACP Annual In-Service Conference and both Chief Freyhof and Sergeant Styles attended Ohio Alerts Training. Officer Beltz and Officer Stolzenburg attended a QPR Workshop.
- Chief Freyhof noted that 60 code enforcement notification letters have been mailed. Chief Freyhof expressed concern regarding tall grass along the drainage ditch in the White Oaks Court area and is unsure if some of the standing water is a catch basin issue. Chief Freyhof thought the issues should be a shared responsibility between the homeowners and the village to resolve. Council agreed that the drainage issue needs to be further investigated to determine the problem and how to correct.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District to council and explained that the district is exploring the need for an additional levy due to the increase in the cost of services and the increase in the number of runs made by the district.

WRPO Radio:

- Administrator Roe presented the WRPO Radio financials to council and explained that the radio station has been operating in a monetary deficit in March, April and May and within 2 months will not have enough money to operate. Council expressed concern in closing the radio station as it has been in operation since May of 2002, but understand that the radio station cannot sustain its current operations due to the lack of funding. Councilor Reid raised the issue of whether or not the village should spend tax dollars to help subsidize the radio station. Administrator Roe had received emails from the radio station expressing concern over the lack of manpower to operate the station and the need to upgrade the outdated internet infrastructure. It was concluded that there are 2 options for the radio station, either close the station or move to a more cost effective on-line streaming platform. Councilor Smith asked Administrator Roe to have discussions with the radio station regarding what the radio station would need from the village financially, to operate only as an on-line streaming platform and if the village could advertise, on behalf of the radio station, the need for funding.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 26-1071 – Certifying Unpaid Charges for Services Performed by the Village Under O.R.C. 731.51 and Authorizing the Logan County Auditor to Place the Delinquent Amounts on the Tax Duplicates for Collection. Mayor Huffman read Resolution 26-1071 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1071 and declare it an emergency. 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 Gibson to adopt Resolution 26-1071 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 26-1072 – Authorizing Supplemental Appropriations for the Village during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026 and Declaring an Emergency. The resolution increases appropriations to the Parks and Recreation Fund to provide and maintain parks. Mayor Huffman read Resolution 26-1072 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1072 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to adopt Resolution 26-1072 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 26-1073 – Opposing AES Ohio's Request to Increase Distribution Rates and Requesting that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Deny the Utility's Request and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman read Resolution 26-1073 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1073 and declare it an emergency. 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 Gibson to adopt Resolution 26-1073 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Council reviewed the amended Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Exemption Program Application. Councilor Smith noted some changes that need to be made to the application. Most notably, the requirement being any tax exemption amounts greater than 75% will require advance local school board notice and approval and to include a question asking what the tax is without the tax abatement. Administrator Roe explained to council the need for confidentiality with CRA applications. The applicant would need to sign a waiver allowing council to discuss the CRA and council needing to go into executive session to discuss the CRA.

- Chief Freyhof discussed the Al Leppich Field Proposal as presented to council at the previous council meeting held on June 1, 2026. Chief Freyhof explained all of the rehabilitation work done to the fields in prior years and how the fields have been neglected over the last few years. Chief Freyhof and the Park and Recreational Board propose to use the \$1,500 donated specifically to Al Leppich Fields to make the recreational area more usable and build a soccer field to possibly be a "home field" for the middle school soccer team. Concern was expressed that the area is in a flood zone and moving dirt to rehab the fields would have to stay within that particular parcel of land, per FEMA regulations. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow Chief Freyhof and the Park and Recreation Board move forward in restoring Al Leppich Field using the \$1,500 that has been donated for expenses. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Iiams asked Chief Freyhof to look into placing flashing speed limit signs along State Route 708 due to the increase in traffic. Chief Freyhof agreed to get estimates on the cost to purchase the speed limit signs.
- Councilor Reid asked for an update on the paving of the municipal parking lot and village streets. Administrator Roe stated that Bob Watt will pave the municipal parking lot and scheduling the project is in the works. Administrator Roe noted that she is putting together a list for 2027 street paving and it will be presented to council at next

New Business:

- Council reviewed the proposed Cybersecurity Policy. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to adopt the Cybersecurity Policy as written. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Councilor Hinterschied noted that the splashpad ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening will be held on June 27th beginning at 10:00 AM. All who made donations to the splashpad, the public and news media will be invited to celebrate. Coffee, cookies and hot dogs will be available. Councilor Hinterschied stated that there will be a raffle during the day and requested that all of the dollars received be earmarked for future expenses pertaining to kid's craft days held at the park.
- Mayor Huffman has been asked if a car show could be scheduled for July 3rd. The mayor had spoken with Chief Freyhof about possibly closing Clermont Street between State Route 366 and US Highway 33 to accommodate the car show. Local businesses have also been contacted to perhaps use their parking lots as additional space. Council agreed to accommodate the needs of the car show, but noted that traffic will be extremely heavy within the village during the 4th of July weekend.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed