

**Village of Russells Point
August 3, 2026
Council Meeting**

Mayor Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:59 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: David Wallace, Dianne Gauder, William Forgione, Mary Jo Forgione, Sharon DeVault, Rita Sneed, William Sneed

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the council meeting minutes dated July 20, 2026. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Parks Committee:

- Councilor Hinterschied submitted the Parks Committee report to council.
- Councilor Hinterschied stated that Pheasants Forever is willing to clean the Great Miami River log jams located along the John and Mary Rudolph Nature Area. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Gibson to give permission to Pheasants Forever to clean the Great Miami River log jams along the John and Mary Rudolph Nature Area. Council discussed whether they need to give permission for the non-profit group to clean the river and decided that council permission is not needed since the village does not own the Great Miami River. Councilor Hinterschied withdrew the motion.
- Councilor Hinterschied stated that Pheasants Forever wants to remove invading species of weeds from the John and Mary Rudolph Nature Area. Council agreed to having the weeds removed.
- Kid's Craft Day will be held on August 11th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The kids will enjoy painting rocks with words of encouragement and placing the rocks throughout the village.
- Administrator Roe noted that the splash pad is being covered in mud and candy is being thrown onto the pickleball courts. A temporary camera will be installed to monitor the activities at the splash pad and park area. Councilor Reid stated that council consider appropriating money to the park budget for permanent lighting and security cameras for the park area and splash pad.

Administrator:

- Administrator Roe gave an update on the water tower grant. The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), at no cost to the village, will help with the grant writing and the qualification-based process to hire an engineer for the project.

Citizen Comments:

- William Sneed stated that vehicles are speeding as they cross the bridge going towards Spend-A-Day Marina. The speed limit is 25 MPH and Mr. Sneed noted that he has seen police presence at the bridge to control speeding, but would like to see more presence to slow traffic. Mayor Huffman noted that he would speak with the Chief of Police and discuss the issue.
- Dave Wallace asked when the pile asphalt grindings, located out at the water plant, will be removed. Administrator Roe explained that the grindings are from the ballpark and will be leveled off for the parking lot. Concern was raised about grindings on Westview Street and it was determined that those grindings are not from the village and are on private property.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Ordinance 26-1277 – Amending the Village of Russells Point Codified Ordinances Section 377.01 Definitions. Mayor Huffman conducted the third and final reading of Ordinance 26-1277 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the 3rd reading and to approve of Ordinance 26-1277 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. Mayor Huffman explained that Ordinance 26-1277 would go into effect 30 days from its passage.
- Resolution 26-1077 – Certifying Unpaid Charges for Services Performed by the Village under ORC 731.51 and Authorizing the Logan County Auditor to Place Delinquent Amounts on the 2026 Tax Duplicate for Collection and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman conducted a reading of Resolution 26-1077 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1077 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 Hinterschied to approve Resolution 26-1077 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- Resolution 26-1078 – Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Patrick Stolzenburg as a Full-Time Police Officer for the Village of Russells Point and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman conducted a reading of Resolution 26-1078 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1078 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 Smith to approve Resolution 26-1078 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- The village was awarded a DART (Drug Abuse Response Team) grant for \$77,000 from the Ohio Attorney General for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. The grant is a reimbursable grant that can be renewed annually. The funding will address the opioid epidemic by assisting individuals through the creation of a full-time police officer position to act as an outreach coordinator, to make referrals to treatment and recovery programs, provide counseling and mental health services and as a resource for recovery support. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Gibson to accept the DART grant. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Mayor Huffman discussed the sidewalk and crossing grant for pedestrian improvements along U.S. 33. Choice One Engineering applied for the grant several months ago and the mayor is working on getting more details from Choice One Engineering and from Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the project slated for the year 2031 at a cost of \$525,619. Once information is received, Mayor Huffman will share it with council.
- Mayor Huffman discussed the property located at 233 Grand Avenue. The property is owned by the village, but is of no use to the village. Mayor Huffman asked council if they want to put the lot up for sale and council agreed to have the mayor move forward in trying to sell the vacant lot.
- Administrator Roe reviewed the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Village of Lakeview and the Village of Russells Point regarding the operation of the Village of Russells Point’s water plant. Administrator Roe noted that village employee J.J. Frost has passed his water license test and is now a licensed operator and operator of record for the village. The revised MOU includes having the services of a Village of Lakeview operator of record on an “as needed” basis. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to have the MOU reviewed by the Village Solicitor as written. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a water personnel only. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to enter into an executive session and invite Administrator Roe into 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 7:26 PM. At 7:41 PM, council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied 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 Reid and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to extend a full-time employment offer to Gavin Spring at an hourly rate discussed by council. 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 allow an exception for a water employee, with a qualifying event, to qualify for the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) even though the water employee is a few weeks short in allowing all the benefits enured by FMLA. 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 7:24 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed