

**Village of Russells Point**  
**June 1, 2026**  
**Council Meeting**

Mayor John 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:** AshLee Hullinger, David Wallace, Dianne Gauder, Mary Jo Forgione, William Forgione

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated May 18, 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 noted the kid's craft day on June 9th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The kids will enjoy painting flower pots.

**Tree Committee:**

- Councilor Hinterschied submitted the Tree Committee report to council.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

- Resolution 26-1270 – Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of James Beltz as a Full-Time Police Officer for the Village of Russells Point and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman conducted a reading of Resolution 26-1270. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1070 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 26-1070 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 current village Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Exemption Program Application. Councilor Smith noted that changes to the current application need to be made to incorporate additional information that needs to be provided by the applicant. The additional information could allow council to make timely decisions on approving or rejecting the application. Councilor Smith noted that the City of Bellefontaine has two CRA applications, one for residential and the other for commercial. Council agreed to have Administrator Roe draft a new CRA Tax Exemption Program Application with revisions and present to council at a later date.
- Administrator Roe had conversation with Village Solicitor Daniel Bey regarding Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission's (LUC) template resolution opposing AES Ohio's request to increase electric distribution rates. The LUC did not draft the resolution, but was given to them as a template. Council agreed to have Administrator Roe and Daniel Bey draft a village resolution to oppose the increase in the distribution rates and present to council at a later date.

- Administrator Roe asked council how they would like the language of a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) be incorporated into a village ordinance. It was explained that the current village ordinance, regarding golf carts, could be amended to include UTV's or draft a separate ordinance exclusively for UTV's. Council agreed to include UTV's into an ordinance, but requested that Administrator Roe discuss the topic with Chief of Police Joe Freyhof to get a police/safety perspective.
- Administrator Roe reviewed the SCADA proposal offered by Extreme Endeavors. The proposal outlines 2 options, one as a service 60-month payment plan and the other to purchase the system outright. The SCADA software is used to communicate between the water towers and the water plant for efficient water operations. Administrator Roe stated that the current software is outdated and the software provider will not repair any issues. Council asked that Administrator Roe and Fiscal Officer McGuire review the water budget to determine if the software could be purchased either this year, 2026, or in 2027.
- Administrator Roe gave an update on the status of the splashpad. It was noted that construction of the splashpad is complete, but there are issues with storm water drainage around the location of the splashpad. Additional drainage will need to be installed at a cost yet to be determined.

**New Business:**

- Council agreed to have Mayor Huffman register to attend the Mayors Association of Ohio conference on June 24, 2026. The registration fee is \$200.
- Administrator Roe noted that Ohio RCAP (Rural Communities Assistance Program) will review the village's current water rate schedule and conduct a water rate survey. Once the study is complete, RCAP will provide a recommendation as to whether or not the village water rates should increase.
- Administrator Roe stated that the new water utility billing software will "go live" on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. During the conversion process, it was discovered that approximately 87 village water accounts were billed the incorrect rates. Administrator Roe is in process of notify those account holders who will be affected as accounts are properly billed with the new software.
- Council reviewed the Al Leppich Field Proposal. The proposal outlines the current conditions of the ball fields and the need to recondition ball field A and C while making field B a soccer field. The estimated cost of the proposal is not yet determined. Some members of council expressed concern over spending money on reconditioning the fields as the area is known to flood. Councilor Iiams inquired about the possibility of having a soccer field in the grass area behind the municipal building. Council requested more information about the proposal. The concern of fertilizing the ball fields is an issue due to the close proximity to the water plant. It was also noted that whether the village owned land, surrounding the area of the water plant, be considered nature and let grow or be maintained.
- Administrator Roe discussed the need to pave Washington Avenue as it was agreed to be done in 2023 by council. Paving Washington Avenue will use a majority of the sales tax money, provided by the county auditor, to complete and other residential streets that are in need of paving will not be done. Council asked that Administrator Roe have conversation with the local investor, who owns lots along Washington Avenue, to compromise on how much money the village will spend to pave Washington Avenue. It was noted that the investor will have to install curbs, gutters, sidewalk and lighting along the area to be paved.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to adjourn at 7:59 PM. Motion passed.

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John Huffman, Mayor

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Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

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Date Passed