

**Village of Russells Point
August 17, 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. Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire was also present. Village Administrator Deanna Roe was absent.

Guests: AshLee Hullinger, Dianne Gauder, David Wallace, Sharon DeVault, Mary Jo Forgione, William Forgione, 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 August 3, 2026. Councilor Iiams noted a typographical error in a motion made after the Executive Session business on the August 3rd minutes. The error will be corrected. Councilor Iiams and Councilor Hinterschied rescinded their original motion to approve the council meeting minutes. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the council meeting minutes dated August 3, 2026, as amended. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal:

- The presentation of the July 31, 2026 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. The ending bank balance as of July 31, 2026 totaled \$5,480,161.29. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. The presentation of the July water account adjustments was reviewed. Councilor Reid inquired about the large credit dollar amount as one of the adjustments. Fiscal Officer McGuire explained that the large credit amount are adjustments made to a few water accounts that were incorrectly billed as commercial transient accounts and the credit reflects the adjustment to correct the billing. Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Elleman to approve the July water account adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0, with Councilor Smith abstaining due to not knowing if her business water account was one of the incorrectly billed commercial transient accounts. Motion passed.

Police/Code Enforcement:

- Chief of Police Joe Freyhof submitted the police department report to council. In July, there were 684 calls for service. The officers and village staff have been CRP certified. Chief Freyhof noted that the 2024 Dodge cruiser was diagnosed with a bad cam roller which damaged the #6 cylinder. However, the vehicle is under warranty. As it is in for repair, other maintenance items will be addressed putting the cost at approximately \$1,400. It was also mentioned that the 2019 cruiser will be taken to Parr Safety Equipment to swap out equipment and will be placed in the new cruiser. The 2019 cruiser will be kept as a backup. Mayor Huffman noted that Chief Freyhof submitted a request for approval of lodging and food expenses while Chief Freyhof and Sergeant Styles attend the Law Enforcement Training Symposium being held on September 14, 2026. Motion was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the request of lodging and food expenses for the Chief and Sergeant while attending the symposium. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. It was noted that the registration expense for Chief Freyhof was waived as he is presenting at the symposium.

Zoning:

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator, submitted the zoning report to council. Councilor Reid inquired about the construction progress being made at LuLu's at the Lake. Dianne Gauder explained that the owner of LuLu's is finalizing the plans for the interior layout of the restaurant before construction begins.

Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission:

- Councilor Iiams submitted the LUC Executive Committee report to council. Councilor Iiams noted that Washington Township has approved, with modifications, their zoning language to explain that the Industrial Park is not large enough for data centers and is also partially located in a flood plain.

Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District:

- Councilor Reid submitted the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District to council. Councilor Reid stated that the EMS district has decided to file appropriate paperwork for an 8-mill levy to be placed on the November ballot. The 8-mill levy is projected to generate approximately \$4.1 million dollars annually. The EMS district currently has a 2.5 mill levy, but the district will let that levy expire.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- Resolution 26-1079 – Certifying Unpaid Charges for Services Performed by the Village of Russells Point under ORC No. 731.51 and Authorizing the Logan County Auditor to Place the Delinquent Amounts on the 2026 Tax Duplicates for Collection and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Huffman read Resolution 26-1079 by title. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1079 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 adopt Resolution 26-1079 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Resolution 26-1080 – Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying with the County Auditor. The resolution provides an updated revenue estimate and the status of each levy in the village. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Gibson to waive the 3-reading rule on Resolution 26-1080 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 adopt Resolution 26-1080 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Mayor Huffman discussed the sidewalk and crossing grant for pedestrian improvements along U.S. 33. The mayor noted that the grant covers construction to enhance the crosswalk, but (according to Choice One Engineering and the Ohio Department of Transportation) does not include construction of the sidewalks. The project is slated to begin construction in 2030 and be completed in 2031 at a cost of \$525,619. The village is responsible for a 10% match which can be used to pay Choice One Engineering for their fees.
- Councilor Hinterschied noted that the NatureWorks grant money for the splash pad has been received by the village. Council expressed concern over some vandalism happening at the splash pad. Chief Freyhof noted that the police security cameras are too far away to identify the vandals and stated that stand-alone cameras should be placed near the splash pad, but there is a cost of purchasing the needed equipment and the monthly internet cost from Verizon to operate the security system.
- Dave Wallace asked Chief Freyhof if the 3 recently purchased radar signs were installed. Chief Freyhof stated that one radar is set up in the 100 block of N. Orchard Island Road. Chief noted that he has reached out to Ohio Department of Transportation to set up a sign post in the 500 block of West Main Street (State Route 366) to install another radar sign. The other radar could possibly be made a mobile unit.

New Business:

- Mayor Huffman noted that the Craft Fair is scheduled for October 10, 2026, beginning at 9:30 AM. To begin the Craft Fair, a tree will be planted in remembrance of former Mayor Robin Reames. The tree will be donated to the village by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division. It was also noted that the Forestry Division will also donate an additional 5 to 6 trees to the village to be planted on village owned property.
- Councilor Reid noted that the county mayors decided to have Trick or Treat on October 31st of every year. Councilor Reid expressed concern on how that date will affect the village's Trunk or Treat date. It was stated that the mayor can make the decision to change the village's Trick or Treat date, if need be.
- Councilor Iiams asked council if he could be the council representative to be on the Water Tower Committee. It was determined that the Village Administrator makes the committee assignment and the designations will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.
- There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed