

Royal Center Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6pm
Royal Center Town Hall

Attending:

Council Members Present: Brandon Schmaltz, Tim Minnick, Teresa Hiatt, Ryan Funk, and Jasmine McMillan.

Others present: Clerk/Treasurer - Carrie McIntire, Water Superintendent – Aaron Carlson, Sewer Superintendent – Lucian Eller, Town Attorney - Brad Rozzi, Town Marshal – Dale Campbell, Boone Township Trustee – Bob Pifer, Bill Haselby, Lorie Solomon, Nichole Page, Matt Colford, Kathern Harvey, Tom Thompson

Opening: Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandon Schmaltz.

Minutes: Motion made by Teresa Hiatt to approve March Regular Meeting Minutes and March Work Session Minutes, second by Tim Minnick. Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business:

Park Improvements: Gina Kennell, Deputy Clerk, is not present, but the estimates she received to repair the floor of the main pavilion are reviewed. Discussion commences regarding the need to replace the doors on the main pavilion before repairing the floor. Aaron Carlson reports he is awaiting an estimate from Grand Industrial to complete both jobs and an additional quote from Michael Hopper. The Council tables this item until the quotes are received.

New Business:

Boone Township Trustee – Meetings: Bob Pifer, Boone Township Trustee appears to request permission from the Town Council to use the meeting room at Town Hall and our OWL to record and livestream the Township Trustee meetings. He states they meet approximately 5 times per year (January, July, 2 Budget Hearings in the Fall, and December). He indicates he will contact the Clerk-Treasurer, Carrie McIntire, to schedule a date and time when the meeting room is available. Town Council gives permission.

Ordinance 2025-4 Amended Leave Time: The Town Council discusses that we will have a public hearing next month regarding the amendment of the current Leave Time Policy. The item is tabled this month to allow for proper notice.

Pole Barn Estimates: Town Council asks the results of estimates received to make necessary repairs to the Pole Barn located at Town Hall. Aaron Carlson states he is still waiting on the estimate from Jack Timmons. The Town Council tables this discussion until the May meeting.

Reports/Updates –

Lucian Eller – Reports we had an issue with the Bar Screen at the Sewer Plant. The part has been ordered, and we are waiting for it to arrive, so we can repair it.

Aaron Carlson – Reports that he has been in contact with Calvin Roach of DLZ and Kelly Nethercutt of INDOT, and E&B Paving regarding concerns from the Highway 35 Project last summer that still need to be resolved. The list includes repair of a storm sewer manhole near U.S. 35 & Beckley Street, soil needs removed from a meter pit in the west tree-lawn area just South of Center Street, ponding near the NE corner of Center Street & U.S. 35 in the crosswalk that needs remediation, and fine-grading of soil and sod remediation along the route as well.

Aaron Carlson - Aaron announces that Michael Hopper will be tearing down Rans Funeral Home's old garage. Michael needs to place a dumpster in the alley behind the funeral home for 2-3 days to dispose of the material and will place safety cones out to block the alley during that time.

Carrie McIntire – The Clerk reminds everyone that the office will be closing at noon on April 9, 2025, and will remain closed through April 10, 2025, so she may attend a Downtown Revitalization Workshop. Gina is on a scheduled vacation that week.

The Clerk notifies the Town Council that the Town has received several notices from EMC, our insurance carrier, regarding increases in deductibles and several changes/exclusions upon renewal. She contacted our agent, Mike Montgomery, from Jim Kitchell Agency to inquire about these updates. He states he will come to a meeting and review all of this prior to our renewal.

She announces that AFLAC contacted the Town requesting a day to meet for open enrollment for any interested employees. She inquires whether the Council will give approval. Dale Campbell informs the Clerk that the Deputies have something similar through Globe Life. The Town Council approves if employees are interested.

Next, she informs the Town Council that AT&T contacted the Town to offer First Net phone services to qualifying employees. They request to attend a Town event or hold a Lunch & Learn to enroll Fire, Police, or Government employees who may be interested. The Council gives permission and requests the Clerk set a date and time.

Lastly, the Clerk reminds those present that the Royal Center Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt is April 13, 2025, and the Royal Center Fire Department is also holding a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast May 3, 2025.

Brandon Schmaltz – Requests a motion to approve reimbursement of the Clerk's expenses from ILMCT Training. Ryan makes a motion to approve the expenses for Carrie, second by Tim Minnick. Motion passes unanimously.

Brandon explains that in our contract with Apex Waste Collection they have agreed to provide a hopper for a Spring Clean Up Day. He asks for suggestions for a possible date to have this event. Discussion commences and Council decides that May 17, 2025, will work. The dumpster should be delivered to the Sewer Plant.

Comments:

Kathern Harvey - of 304 W North Street wants to put gravel in front of her home or to the rear of her house for parking. Two unmaintained grass alleys run along the sides of her home. Her water meter is in the front of the house. She seeks suggestions on which method would be acceptable to the Town. Aaron Carlson, Street Superintendent explains the Town could put a riser on the pit with a recessed lid on it to protect the MXU if she puts gravel in the front of her home, or she could use the unmaintained grass alley to access the back of her home, then she could gravel the area in her backyard for parking. Aaron and Brandon Schmaltz will go inspect the area tomorrow to help her make an informed decision.

Matt Colford – of 106 Sweet Street is stating an interest in vacating the alley behind his home in response to the letter sent by Attorney Rozzi regarding congested parking on Sweet Street. Attorney Rozzi notifies Mr. Colford to look up the statutory requirements and proceed as indicated.

Matt asks what the current procedure is for leaf pick up. Brandon explains the Council is working on a trying to acquire a new leaf vac. Also, Matt has concerns that street sweepers are only used on main streets rather than side streets. Brandon assures him that the Town Council wants clean streets and the streets are swept at least twice per year. The Council will discuss the possibility of sweeping streets once per month as well as picking up sticks seasonally.

Nichole Page – of 105 Sweet Street inquires what recommendations the Town suggests to remedy the parking situation on Sweet Street and what measures will be taken if the double parking does not stop. Attorney Rozzi and the Town Council state that they may be forced to create an ordinance for No Parking or Alternate Side Parking on Sweet Street. Nichole complains that teenagers speed down the street and the residents park that way to slow down the traffic to protect kids in the neighborhood. Dale Campbell informs her that the legal speed limit on Sweet Street is 35 mph, so people are not speeding, but they still may be going too fast for that neighborhood. Dale states that if the situation persists, the Town may need to develop an ordinance to reduce the speed on that street. It was suggested that she watch the agenda for any further discussion or action on the matter.

Lorie Solomon – A line from an electric pole or telephone pole goes across her drive and hangs very low. Who can she call to verify if the line is Duke Energy or Frontier and whether they can raise the line higher? Aaron and Lucian will investigate and call the proper company to correct it.

Bob Pifer – As Boone Township Trustee, he would like to be added to the May agenda to renew the Fire Contract.

Claims:

Jasmine McMillan makes a motion to accept claims, second by Ryan Funk. Motion carries unanimously.

Adjourn:

Teresa Hiatt makes a motion to adjourn, second by Tim Minnick. Motion passes unanimously.

ATTEST: Carrie McIntire

Carrie McIntire, Clerk-Treasurer

Ryan Funk Brandon Schmalz

Ryan Funk, Town Council President
Brandon Schmalz, Vice

