

Royal Center Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3, 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, Deputy Clerk – Gina Kennell, Water/Street Superintendent – Aaron Carlson, Sewer Superintendent – Lucian Eller, Town Attorney - Brad Rozzi, and Fire Chief – Ed Schroder, Rita Dumm, Lorie Solomon, and Deb Green, ~~Jordan Taylor~~

Opening: Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandon Schmaltz.

Minutes: Motion made by Jasmine McMillan to approve January Regular Meeting Minutes and January Executive Session Minutes, second by Tim Minnick. Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business:

Park Board Openings/Appointments: Brandon Schmaltz- Council President confirms Paige Woodhouse and Deidre Dodt have resigned from the Rea Park Board. Abby Roudebush has confirmed she will represent Pioneer Youth League as their representative on the Rea Park Board. Discussion commences on whether there is still a need for the park board. Brandon Schmaltz, Council President, expresses that there is still a need for improvements in the park and he believes it is still necessary. He states there needs to be an improvement in the chain of command for tasks to be completed at the park. The Rea Park Board should report to the Town Council and the Town Council will delegate responsibility and tasks to the Town Employees. Teresa Hiatt expresses that there could be improvements in communication and accountability for attending meetings and giving financial reports and project updates.

Public Hearing – Water Rate Increase – Ordinance 2025-1: Brad Rozzi, Town Attorney gives a second reading of Ordinance 2025-1 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2002-2 Establishing a Revised Schedule of Rates and Charges for the Use of and Services Rendered by the Waterworks System of the Town. The first reading was in January 2025. To summarize, water rates are to increase 20% in 2025, 15% in 2026, and 10% in 2027. Bulk water rates will increase to \$100 flat rate for the first 5,000 gallons and will be prorated above 5,000 gallons. Public comment heard from Jordan Taylor, 105 E Beckley St. He states, “BOO!!” Then, he inquires what the rate increase will be for his bill. Brandon explains the new rates and provides Jordan an estimate of his new bill. Tim Minnick makes a motion to accept Ordinance 2025-1 as read by Attorney Rozzi for the Water Rate Increase of 2025, 2026, and 2027, second by Jasmine McMillan. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Additional Appropriation – Fire (Turn Out Gear): Ordinance 2025-3 is read to approve and adopt an additional appropriation to purchase new fire turn out gear for the firefighters. Gear expires after 10 years and must be replaced as a safety precaution. Teresa makes a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-3, second by Ryan Funk. Motion passes unanimously.

Reports/Updates –

Ed Schroder – Announcement with regarding to turn out gear: the helmets, gloves, and boots have arrived. He also gives an account of fire runs for 2024: 128 calls / 53 Fire / 75 EMS. This total increased from previous years.

Aaron Carlson – NIPSCO is removing 3 wells. One near Elaine Funk’s residence, and 2 at the point near Rea Park. NIPSCO plans to leave these properties in gravel, so we can use the extra space for parking during events at the park.

Brad Rozzi – Updates the Council that he is working on a Vendor Debt Collection with Aaron and Carrie based on an oral agreement during the flow meter replacement at the water plant. He does not have a resolution at this time, but he is working on it.

Ryan Funk – When will work session be? The Council schedules the Work Session for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6pm.

Carrie McIntire – Provides an answer to the Council’s question last month regarding Apex Waste Collection’s hours for pick up. The Apex contract states pick up is between the hours of 6am-7pm.

Comments:

No public comments.

Claims:

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

Brandon Schmalz

Brandon Schmalz, Town Council President