

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

Attending:

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

Others present: Clerk/Treasurer - Carrie McIntire, Sewer Superintendent – Lucian Eller, Town Attorney - Brad Rozzi, Town Marshal – Dale Campbell, Deputy Clerk – Gina Kennell, Lorie Solomon, Steve Smith, Ike Brown, Deb Green, and Bobetta King.

Opening: Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandon Schmaltz.

Minutes: Motion made by Teresa Hiatt to approve June Regular Meeting Minutes, second by Tim Minnick. Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business:

Leaf Removal: Ryan informs those present that he has continued to research options for leaf removal. No rentals are available. He could not find any good options for used equipment. Therefore, he obtained a quote for a new leaf vac and trailer from Performance Trailers. The 29hp Scag Leaf Vac and dump trailer with electric hydraulic tongue jack, 270-degree one man swing-away mount, and a 4' x 7' vented top installed come to a total of \$31,300 while shipping is \$1,500 for a total sum of \$32,800. The Scag Leaf Vac has a 2-year commercial warranty, and the trailer has a 3-year warranty. Discussion commences regarding where the leaves will be disposed of. The Council decides the leaves will be taken to an area at the Sewer Plant. Tim Minnick makes a motion to purchase the Scag Leaf Vacuum and Trailer splitting half the cost between MVH and Sewer funds, second by Jasmine McMillan. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Additional Appropriation – Chet's Park Fund – Ordinance 2025-6: Brandon explains the ordinance is to provide additional funds needed to replace the doors on the Main Pavilion at Rea Park. Ryan Funk makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6 in the amount of \$5,365.03 from the Chet's Park Fund to replace the doors, second by Teresa Hiatt. Motion passes unanimously.

Park Board Membership: Brandon requests approval to add Abby Roudebush, Pioneer Youth League Girls President to the Rea Park Board along with Riley Thimlar. Riley lives out of town but runs a business in Royal Center and is interested. Discussion commences and the Ordinance is reviewed to determine if Park Board members must live inside town limits to participate. It is determined that members are not required to live in town, they must only have an interest in and knowledge of our park and recreation. Brandon will invite the two nominees to attend the August meeting so they may be accepted as members.

Park Improvements: Brandon plans to ask the Pioneer School Corporation to improve the elementary school baseball fields, since the Town provides the softball diamond for the Varsity Girls Softball team. If the fields are improved, the Town has the potential for more baseball/softball tournaments which will help bring revenue to local businesses. The Rea Park Board has also paid for new scoreboards for the elementary diamonds and placed a new flag and flagpole at the Boys 12U Diamond. Also, the Park Board has money to purchase more trees for the park and an arborist who has made recommendations for which trees to purchase. However, they have not had time to plant them, so they have not purchased any currently.

Accept Nepotism Forms – Direct Line of Supervision and Municipal: Direct Line of Supervision and Municipal Nepotism Forms completed by Jasmine McMillan, Teresa Hiatt, Tim Minnick, Ryan Funk and Brandon Schmaltz are signed and accepted and will be kept on file at Town Hall with the Clerk-Treasurer.

Reports/Updates –

Carrie McIntire – Informs those present that both the Water & CCI Certificate of Deposits (CDs) matured on June 13, 2025, and were rolled into two 7-month CDs at a rate of 3.87% or 3.94% APY and will mature on January 13, 2026.

Carrie also reports that a couple of town residents have made complaints about trash containers not being taken back to the house after the trash has been picked up. She provided a sample ordinance regulating that the trash containers be placed on the curb the night before trash collection and removed from curb the morning following trash collection day. Discussion commences and the Council decides they are not interested in creating an ordinance. They state they will address any issues on an individual basis when necessary.

Tim Minnick – Reminds the Council and Town residents that Levi Mannies will shadow him at the next Emergency Management meeting on August 6, 2025 @ 6:30 pm with the intention of taking Tim's place as the Town of Royal Center representative.

Brandon Schmaltz – Gives reports for Aaron Carlson in his absence. He announces that the repairs on the pole building at Town Hall are complete except replacing the walk-in door. FBI is scheduled to return on July 14 – 15, 2025, to complete that task.

NIPSCO has finished with the first phase of closing the wells on Highway 16, Park Avenue, and Chicago Street. They plan to return in August to remove the well heads which will complete the project.

Two new basketball goals at Rea Park are up and were completed before Pioneer Days.

The doors that Michael Hopper ordered for the main pavilion have not arrived yet. The project is expected to take two weeks to complete after the doors arrive.

The fire hydrant at the bank is broken. The Fire Dept. is aware, and the Town is working to repair it.

Jack Timmons plans to repair the park wall this month from the damage caused by the Oregon-Davis bus.

Comments:

Lorie Solomon – Asks if motorized vehicles are allowed on the Panhandle Pathway trail and states that the trail displays signage against it. The Town has not made an ordinance regarding this, but patrons should be following the posted signs. John Bawcum or John Magee may be helpful in answering trail questions.

What was decided on the pavilion floor? The Council answers that we still plan to update the floor; however, the doors must be replaced first.

Can Park Lane continue through to the Pioneer Elementary parking lot? The Council answers that it cannot pass through because when the road ends, the school property begins. That is not the Town's property.

Deb Green – Informs the Council that she has been revisited by the dog who has been killing her cats and asks if we have a dog catcher. Yes, our business relationship with Animal Control has been restored. She states he is a young dog and is not aggressive. He is playing with the cats and kills them. He needs to be on a leash. She states she knows the owner, Mr. Day. Town Marshal, Dale Campbell informs Deb that the dog's owner could be civilly sued. Dale offered to take her personal information after the meeting and pass it along to the authorities.

Claims:

Jasmine McMillan makes a motion to accept claims, second by Tim Minnick. 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 Schmaltz

Brandon Schmaltz, Town Council President

