



Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting October 14, 2025

Rocky Ripple Town Board president, Randy Sanders, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Town board members Randy Sanders, Megan Hulland and Rachel Hunter, were present. Caroline Martin, clerk treasurer and Mike Kiefer, town marshal, were present. Town attorney Sarah Guffey was present.

Welcome Community!

Town board president, Randy Sanders, welcomed those who were present at town hall.

Clerk Treasurer Reports

2026 Budget - The board approved a budget totaling \$127,604 with a requirement to upload all documentation within 5 days to meet compliance deadlines.

Caroline Martin was introduced as the new Clerk Treasurer and sworn in. Steps to secure a bond will be taken and likely prorated for the remaining two months of the year, ensuring continuity amid staff changes. Megan will coordinate Chase setup and Caroline will work with Julie Smith to get set up with DLGF.

Minutes - September minutes were presented with no changes. Rachel made a motion to accept, Megan seconded.

Treasurer Report for September 2025 - August financials were amended to correct a \$100 discrepancy, raising the ending bank balance for the month of August to \$115,200.99. Randy made a motion to accept, Rachel seconded. September expenses totaled \$7,450.02, including a double payment for the park toilet bill. Mowing bill was missing for September and is expected for October. Income of \$8,161 was driven by pavilion rentals and community garden contributions. Taekwondo Mike's account is now fully paid through the end of October. Due to unresolved discrepancies, approval of September financials was postponed to allow review and ensure accuracy.

Old Business

Rocky Ripple Flood Protection: DPW Updates, ILA

Flood protection notification letters sent by the post office remain undelivered to many residents as USPS works to collect all certified mail signatures for residents, causing delays in FEMA-required certified mailings. The provided flood maps indicate that 10-15% of properties remain in the “AH” flood zone, which implies a potential 1-3 feet water depth during heavy rain, with insurance requirements varying by insurer discretion. There is a process of getting a home out of “AH” zone involving permitting through DPW. The flood zone maps do not yet incorporate the proposed internal drainage project, meaning property statuses may change if the flood wall project was completed. The board plans to compile questions for DPW Director Todd Wilson to clarify the timeline, next steps, and possible regulatory changes. The board will continue to push for a public update. Ongoing communication efforts include website updates and email blasts to reduce confusion and rumors about the nature of these FEMA-required letters.

CEG Canal Updates

Canal levels are now normal. Downstream weeds were causing flooding. There is now a plan on what to do in the future should flooding reoccur. Christopher Burke Engineering is under contract to handle evaluations and dredging.

Speeding Cars in Rocky Ripple/Related Safety Concerns

Speeding and traffic safety concerns near Butler University soccer fields remain unresolved, with permanent signage installation having been requested but no updates yet. A follow-up is planned with Butler contacts to manage ongoing issues.

Town Manager/Marshal's Report

Crime - Three recent crimes were reported. On 9/12 in the 500 block of W 54th Street a burglary was reported. Suspect information is being followed up on at this time. On 10/3 in the 5100 block of Clarendon there was a rental fraud report. A home listed for sale on Open Door was falsely advertised on Facebook Marketplace and money was exchanged. On 10/6 in the 5100 block of Clarendon there was a yard theft report however the Health Department was also called the same day for required clean up so there could be a correlation.

Grants - Grant submission for two AED units through Firehouse Subs was completed by Margaret Brabant, with results pending. The town is preparing for the 2026 CCM Community Crossings grant, which covers 80% of paving costs, necessitating a 20% local match and a commitment letter due by October 31 to secure funding. An “asset management” plan is underway to prioritize which roads will receive repairs and clarify ownership issues, such as the turnaround area on Riverview Drive. The board discussed rolling over funds if immediate repairs are not essential, balancing budget constraints with infrastructure needs. Discussions highlighted the need for clarity on grading responsibilities for Canal St, with conflicting guidance from DPW

and concerns over safety due to erosion near the 53rd St Bridge. The town will investigate possible uses of road funds for signage replacement to improve safety without compromising paving budgets. Local Streets funding stands at approximately \$48,000 with \$3,200 currently available and an estimated additional \$6,600 accruing over 6 months, totaling near \$9,800 for use in spring 2025 paving projects.

Right of Way Clearing - The town is reviewing ordinance enforcement protocols for right-of-way vegetation maintenance, addressing longstanding issues with property owners, where safety concerns and unclear easement authority have caused a delay in action. Legal research through town attorney Sarah Guffey is underway to clarify town authority over easements versus right-of-way, aiming for consistent enforcement for all residents and a clear ordinance to avoid arbitrary or discriminatory application. Grant opportunities to fund clearing are being explored by Joshua Taflinger.

Community Association Updates

The community association successfully hosted the Rocky Ripple Festival and is preparing for the Halloween parade on 10/25 at 3pm. Upcoming events include town dances in October, a monthly jam session series, a Holiday Bazaar on 12/2, and a kids' clothing exchange on 11/16.

New Business

Instagram Account Update

The Rocky Ripple Instagram account is live and posting items such as town events, important town notices, and directing residents and the general public towards important updates that can be found on the website.

Community Concerns

Residents raised concerns about the Butler belltower carillon's increased frequency and extreme volume of music broadcasts, which now occur four days a week for 30 to 60 minutes. Residents have spoken with the secretary of the Dean of Arts and received pushback. The board has committed to contacting Butler representatives to discuss community impact and potential adjustments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Martin