



Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting April 14, 2026

Rocky Ripple Town Board member, 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.

### **New Business**

#### **Ripple Kayak Company**

Nicole Hagemeyer with Ripple Kayak Company requested use of Wapihani Park for kayak and canoe launches. The company anticipates low-volume use with scheduled launch times between Rocky Ripple, Broad Ripple, and 96th Street drop-off locations, as well as unguided tours. Estimated usage would be approximately 14–28 participants per day (transported via a 14-passenger bus), with no more than 45 minutes of total parking lot use and launching activity per day.

Randy expressed concerns similar to those the Town already experiences with Frank's Livery. Individuals renting Town Hall currently receive priority for parking, and residents voiced concerns about the capacity for an additional company to use the area daily. Some residents also expressed the opinion that Town Hall parking should primarily serve residents who fund the facility through taxes and individuals paying to rent the space.

Ripple Kayak Company stated that they would like to be a positive partner with the Town. It was explained to Nicole that the Town does not have a formal boat ramp, but rather an earthen levee that was not designed for heavy traffic or frequent commercial use. Nicole advised that a safety briefing would be conducted before launches and that anyone visibly intoxicated would not be permitted to participate. The Board requested that Ripple Kayak Company provide written safety precautions and an evacuation plan. The company is projecting a start date at the end of May.

Further discussion by the Board is needed regarding possible permitting requirements or approval processes for commercial boating entities. Sarah Guffey will research whether the Town may legally deny or restrict use of the river access area.

## **Clerk Treasurer Reports**

### **Minutes**

March 2026 Minutes were approved.

A motion to accept minutes was made by Megan and seconded by Rachel.

### **Treasurer Report for March 2026**

The only items of note this month were the TownWeb payment of \$1,530 and workers' compensation insurance payment of \$790. There has also been an uptick in Town Hall rental income. The March starting bank balance was \$136,781.29, with an ending balance of \$134,215.35. Rachel motioned and Megan seconded.

### **Capital Development Fund**

Randy spoke with a representative from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) regarding the possibility of implementing a Capital Development Fund tax based on property taxes. Funds collected through this tax could only be used for capital improvements and could not be allocated to the General Fund. The maximum allowable levy is \$0.05 per \$100 of assessed value, equating to approximately \$50 annually on a property assessed at \$100,000. Based on last year's assessed values, the estimated maximum annual revenue would be approximately \$13,445.

Two implementation options were discussed: introducing the tax through a phased approach or implementing it immediately. In order for the tax to take effect next year, full approval must be completed by June 1 of this year. Required public notices and meetings would need to occur prior to that deadline.

Additional clarification is being sought from the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) regarding whether the fund could later be used for projects such as replacing the Town Hall roof in approximately four years, and whether the Town could potentially borrow against future revenues to complete the roof replacement sooner. It was also noted that if 25 residents file an appeal, there would be an appeal meeting with the Marion County Clerk before proceeding. Discussion also included whether funds could potentially be reappropriated from LRS to MVH. Randy is awaiting additional information from SBOA, and further discussions will continue.

## **Old Business**

### **Rocky Ripple Flood Protection; DPW Updates; ILA**

There was no update regarding the floodwall project. A meeting was held with John Barth, but no new information was provided. John expressed his opinion that, due to the current administration nearing the end of its term, the matter may be delayed until the administration is no longer in office. He also shared that, because of liability concerns, administrations are generally unwilling to take on levee maintenance responsibilities.

The Board questioned what options may be available to the Town if construction of a floodwall is ultimately determined to be infeasible.

### **CEG Canal Updates**

Steve Berube from Citizens Energy contacted Randy with an update regarding the dredging project. Citizens Energy recently met with Christopher Burke Engineering and was informed that additional dredging work is needed. At this time, dredging is anticipated to occur in 2027 and 2028, with additional planning and budgeting updates expected to follow.

### **Speeding Cars in Rocky Ripple/Related Safety Concerns**

The Board expressed to John Barth that, to date, no meaningful efforts have been made by Butler University regarding the Town's ongoing traffic concerns. John stated that he would speak with Karissa Hulse in an effort to develop a plan moving forward and suggested gathering impact statements from residents.

The Board discussed the importance of clearly defining both the Town's requests and the community's concerns. Topics discussed included shared maintenance costs, reducing traffic volume, and implementing traffic control measures. During a meeting with Karissa, Randy emphasized that the Town's safety concerns need to be taken seriously.

A resident suggested the formation of a traffic commission to help address ongoing issues. The Board also discussed contacting DPW regarding a potential traffic study for the 52nd Street bridge.

To gather community input, the Town plans to send an email to residents containing a link to a Google Form for submitting impact statements. The form will also be shared through a public announcement, and door-to-door petitioning for signatures is planned.

### **Town Manager/Marshal's Report**

On March 16, IMPD made an Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated (OVWI) arrest on the 5100 block of 54th Street. The previously reported activity on the 5100 block of Riverview from last month was determined to have involved the Health Department. Marshal Mike received a quote for town insurance renewal. Insurance costs also increased by \$497 relative to the prior year.

### **Right of Way Clearing (ROW)**

Town-owned property was cleared as part of ongoing right-of-way maintenance efforts. The Marshal requested authorization to purchase a new battery for a cutter currently owned by the Town and used for ROW clearance. Authorization was approved for an amount not to exceed \$150. Randy motioned and Rachel seconded.

### **Air Horn**

The town hall air horn was tested and failed. After cleaning the horn, it is now operational. There may be grants that could contribute to a new horn or true warning system that could be installed at the park.

### **Right of Way Clearing**

A draft of a ROW Clearing ordinance is in the process of being completed.

### **Community Association Updates**

The Burkhart Community Garden received a grant and will be updating its compost system. Tree work at Hohlt Park has also been completed.

Discussion occurred regarding the removal of a tree from the park without prior Town Board approval. Randy clarified that the Board had approved limb clearing and brush removal only, and that full tree removal should not occur without Board approval in advance. The possibility of grinding the remaining stump to create additional usable space in the park was discussed.

It was also announced that Dhyana will be stepping down from her role as Secretary of the Community Association.

Additionally, a request was made to relocate the portable restroom at Hohlt Park to the opposite side of the driveway.

**New Business**

None.

**Community Concerns**

Questions were raised regarding why the lot at 53rd Street and Lester Street was cleared. Additional discussion occurred about the possibility of converting the four lots on Patterson Street into a park or green space.

A resident also reported that a tree on Canal Boulevard is creating issues for City trash trucks. Randy will contact Citizens Energy to determine whether the tree falls within their right-of-way area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm. Rachel motioned to adjourn, and Megan seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline Martin