

**JUNE 6, 2017**

## **TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the June 6, 2017 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

Council Member James Marker read the names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty:  
Border Patrol Agent Isaac Morales, United States Border Patrol, US  
Deputy Sheriff William Durr, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, MS  
Special Agent Michael T. Walter, Virginia State Police, VA  
Lieutenant Aaron Lloyd Crook, Bluefield Police Department, WV

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Larry Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Chief of Police  
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner - Absent  
Robert Schwerdt – Attorney for the Town - Absent  
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief - Absent  
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief -  
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works  
Benjamin Fryman – Attorney for the Town

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 12145 – 12392, in the amount of \$7,607,875.35 (Seven million, six hundred and seven thousand, eight hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-five cents). Clerk-Treasurer John Volkmann explained the reason for the large amount of claims is because \$6,000,000.00 (Six million dollars) was transferred from BMO Harris Bank to Centier Bank and that \$2,000,000.00 (Two Million Dollars) was invested in a Money Market account that pays 0.85% interest and \$4,000,000.00 (Four Million Dollars) was invested in a Certificate of Deposit that pays 1.15% interest. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the claims as read, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 6:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will not be a study session on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:00pm. The July 4, 2017 Town Council meeting is being changed to July 11, 2017 a study session will be at 6:30pm and the Public Meeting will be at 7:00pm.
2. The Griffith Redevelopment Commission meeting for July has been changed from July 4 to July 18 at 6:00pm with a study session at 5:30pm in the Griffith Town Hall.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. The Knights of Columbus Marquette Council #3631 has requested permission to hand out Tootsie Rolls and collect donations at Cline Ave. and Ridge Road on Friday June 30, 2017 and Saturday July 1, 2017 from 8:00am to 6:00pm each day. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
2. Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek read an announcement from Lake County that Colfax Road, from 45<sup>th</sup> Ave to Ridge Road will be closed for repairs starting Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 6:00am until Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 6:00pm (weather permitting).

### **REPORTS:**

Public Works – Director of Public Works, Rick Konopasek reported that work is progressing on Industrial Drive, 45<sup>th</sup> Ave, and the connector project for the Oak Savannah Trail

Police – No Report

Fire – No Report

**PENDING ITEMS:**

1. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the case has been transferred to the Indiana Tax Court but the Township has filed an interlocutory decree to have the case transferred back to the local courts. There may be a decision by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June on this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

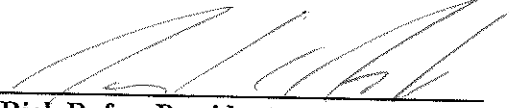
1. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-38 a resolution to allow the Town to sell beer and wine at the various Town sponsored events, for example, Blues Fest, Central Market, Rock N Rail and the Symphony performance and any other Town sponsored events that may occur. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
2. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-37, a resolution approving the Town Council of the Town of Griffith to act as purchasing agent for the Northwest Regional SWAT Team (NWRs) and to enter into a tax-exempt lease/purchase of an LDV SWAT vehicle on behalf of the NWRs, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
3. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept the Griffith Board of Zoning Appeals Findings of Fact for a use variance to allow business conducted outside of an enclosed building at 343 – 345 N. Broad located in a B-2 zoning district, dated May 24, 2017, with the following changes: Paragraph 1: “patio at the south side” should be changed to “patio at the north side” and paragraph 5, sub-paragraph c: “The entire outside area must be closed by 11:00pm” will be changed to read: “The entire outside area must be closed by 10:00pm on weekdays (Sunday through Thursday) and 11:00pm on weekends (Friday and Saturday ).” Council Member James Marker asked if any nearby residents had any concerns and addressed them at the zoning meeting. Council Member Larry Ballah responded that there were and they were satisfied after the response of the zoning board. Seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried with Council Member Tony Hobson abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

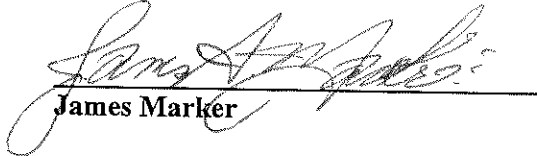
1. Marilyn Glinski, 1187 Sawgrass, Griffith: inquired as why there was no center line on the recently paved areas near Fairbanks and Cline. Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that this was a County project but that the striping would be done at a later date.
2. Gary Mang, 428 Griffith Blvd, Griffith: advised that the Circus would be at St. Mary's next week and asked if hydrant access could be granted to clean and water some of the circus animals. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that they should provide the Fire Department with 48 hours notice to avoid any problems.
3. Ed Stover ( Owner of the old bank building at the corner of Broad St and Main St. inquired as to the availability of the vacant green space that is just south of the Bank building. He also stated that he was doing extensive remodeling to the building with hopes of turning it into an event center. Council President advised that a portion of the green space is going to be converted into a Municipal Parking Lot and that his patrons would have access to it.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA



Rick Ryfa – President



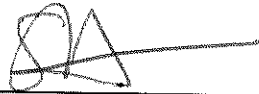
James Marker



Melissa Robbins

ABSENT

Larry Ballah – Vice President



Tony Hobson



Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer