

**MAY 16, 2017**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 16, 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:  
Lieutenant Kevin Mainhart, Yell County Sheriff's Department, AR  
Chief of Police Steven Eric DiSario, Kirkersville Police Department, OH  
Deputy Sheriff Mason Moore, Broadwater County Sheriff's Office, MT

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Larry Ballah - Absent  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the May 2, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 11908 – 12144 in the amount of \$4,435,308.61 (Four Million, four hundred thirty-five thousand, three hundred and eight dollars and sixty-one cents). Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann explained the reason for the large claim amount is due to having to pay the Hammond Sanitary District the “Griffith Past Capital Cost Contribution” of \$2,350,000.00. A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to approve the claims as read, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, 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 May 23, 2017 at 6:00pm.

### **2. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. The Griffith Fire Department Association requested to have a Boot Drive on Saturday May 20, 2017 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. In case of inclement weather the event would be moved to May 27, 2017. A motion was made by Council Member Melissa Robbins to approve the Fire Department request, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. The Salvatorian Fathers request approval to allow the “Marian Pilgrimage” to travel through Griffith. The Pilgrimage is on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to approve this request, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- c. Council President Rick Ryfa read a request for a block party in the 600 block of Canterbury Road, the request has been forwarded to the proper department for further review.

### **REPORTS:**

1. Public Works – No Report.
2. Police - Police Chief Greg Mance reported that crime for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2017 is down 25%. Chief Mance thanked the citizens of Griffith and the Town Council for their involvement and support of the Police Department.
3. Fire – No Report

**PENDING ITEMS:**

1. Council Member James Marker gave an update on the progress of improvements at Central Park. He also made a motion to approve spending in excess of \$25,000.00 from the Park Bond for upcoming improvements to the Central Park Playground Equipment. Council President Rick Ryfa went on to explain that the estimated cost of the improvements is in the \$400,000.00 range and that approximately \$142,000.00 would come from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$50,000.00 from the Recycling Fund and the balance from the Park Bond Fund. Motion seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
2. 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:**

- a. The following individuals spoke against the proposed rezoning of 1535 N. Cline Ave. from R2 and PB to all PB:  
Pat Reyome and Jack Reyome, 3048 W 38<sup>th</sup> Court; Patricia Nunez, 1526 N Woodlawn; Robert Cleveringa, 1518 N Woodlawn; Richard Flores, 1512 N Woodlawn. These individuals expressed their concerns that the rezoning to PB was not the proper zoning, the storage of large quantities of chemicals specifically 55 gallon drums, the euthanizing of nuisance animals, odors from the chemicals and dead animals, extra vehicle traffic, chemical spills and that workers do not always follow proper protocols when handling chemical. They also presented a neighborhood petition against the rezoning. The business requesting the rezoning is Guardian Pest Control, with offices in Highland, IN and Valparaiso, IN. Guardian is going to consolidate some of their office functions to the Griffith location. George Patrick, attorney for Guardian Pest Control, responded to the concerns of the residents. He stated that the chemicals do not come in 55 gallon drums, they are in 5 gallon and smaller containers. The storage and use of these chemicals is highly regulated by the State and the technicians are licensed by the State to apply the chemicals. The chemicals are mixed at the site where they are to be used and not at the new facility. He also stated that Indiana Department of Natural Resources recommends that nuisance wildlife be euthanized and not be relocated. Mr. Patrick stated that the chemicals are ordered on an as needed basis and that there is only a small amount of storage on site. Mr. Nathan Comanse of Guardian Pest Control also emphasized that they do not store large quantities of chemicals on site and that the storage requirements are regulated and only management has a key to the storage. He also stated that once the animals are euthanized they are frozen and picked up by Republic Services. Council Member Tony Hobson stated that he has spoken to official in the Town of Highland and that there have been no complaints against Guardian. Council President Rick Ryfa explained that Guardian has followed the proper procedure for the zoning change and that there were no objections voiced at the Plan Commission meeting.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:****UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council Member Melissa Robbins read Ordinance 2017-35, an ordinance allowing the payment of claims prior to council approval. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Voice Vote:

Council Member James Marker – In Favor; Council President Rick Ryfa – In Favor; Council Member Melissa Robbins – In Favor; Council Member Tony Hobson – In Favor: Motion Carried. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-35, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

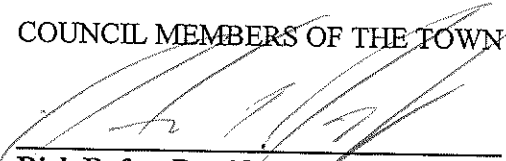
2. Council Member Tony Hobson read Ordinance 2017-36, a Salary Ordinance adding the position “Administrative Assistant to the Town Council”. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Voice Vote: Council Member James Marker – In Favor; Council President Rick Ryfa – In Favor; Council Member Melissa Robbins – In Favor; Council Member Tony Hobson – In Favor: Motion Carried. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-36, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
3. Council President Rick Ryfa introduced a Plan Commission recommendation to rezone 1535 N. Cline Ave. from R2 and PB to all PB. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to have Town attorney Robert Schwerd prepare an zoning change ordinance as long as all of the requirements for said zoning change are met. This is to assure the residents to the area that everything is being done properly. Seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
4. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow Town Attorney Robert Schwerd prepare an ordinance to change the zoning on 115 S. Lafayette from R2, single family, to R4 Multiple Family residential. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

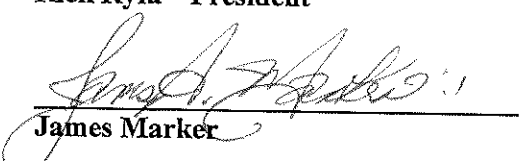
1. None

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**

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

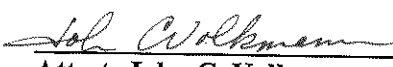
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer