

APRIL 18, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 18, 2017 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

St. Mary's Cub Scout Pack 518 lead the 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:
Deputy Sheriff David Wade, Logan County Sheriff's Office, OK

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
Robert Schwerdt – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief - absent
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief - absent
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 11510 – 11718, in the amount of \$744,647.67 (Seven hundred, forty-four thousand, six hundred, forty-seven dollars and sixty-seven cents). A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to approve the claims as read, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 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 April 25, 2017 at 6:00pm.

2. COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Council Member James Marker read an announcement from the Griffith YMCA about the Community Clean Up Day on May 13, 2017.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins read a letter from Jodi Brown and a proclamation to declare May 12 as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah and seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson proclaiming May 12th as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day in the Town of Griffith. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow the Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce put up banners in 2 locations for the upcoming "TACO MEET & GREET" at the Griffith YMCA. The motion was seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried. The proceeds from this event are for the benefit of the Griffith Animal Shelter.
- d. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Annual Report of the Griffith Redevelopment Commission For Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2016 has been completed and submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).
- e. Council President Rick Ryfa made an announcement about grand opening for Charcuterie on May 6, 2017 from 11am to 5pm. They are requesting being allowed to reserve four parking spaces in front of the store and to have a beer tent and smoker outside of the store. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow the aforementioned to occur, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

1. Public Works – Public Works Director Rick Konopasek announced that the drainage work on Industrial Drive will commence within the next ten days.
2. Police – Police Chief Greg Mance announced that the next Griffith Crime Watch meeting will be on Thursday April 20, 2017 at Griffith High School. He also announced that the Lake County Coroner will be at the next Crime Watch meeting on April 20.
3. Fire – No Report
4. Pending Items – None

1. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. None.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. South Shore Update – Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Griffith Town Council will vote on the South Shore funding at the May 2, 2017 meeting. The comments received from the citizens of Griffith are overwhelmingly against using Town funds to support the expansion of the South Shore Rail but there are a few that are in favor of the expansion. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that he wanted to delay the vote until after the State Legislature adjourned for the season.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa and Chief of Police Greg Mance to sign an agreement with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to install a License Plate Reader (LPR) system on State owned property, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried. The LPR will enhance the investigative abilities of the Police Department.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins did a first reading of Ordinance 2017-30. This Ordinance deals with filming on public property and public right-of-ways.
- c. Council Member James Marker spoke about the improvements to Central Park. The improvements include paving, new fencing and new playground equipment. The improvements will be paid for with CDBG and bond funds.
- d. Council President Rick Ryfa and Council Member Larry Ballah opened the bids for the financing of a new SWAT Command Vehicle. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to forward the bids to Police Chief Greg Mance and Town Attorney Robert Schwerd for review and recommendation, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-31, a resolution to transfer monies from various funds to the Rainy Day Fund for the sole purpose of establishing the matching funds for the Local Roads and Bridges Grant, also known as the Community Crossings Grant, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-32, a resolution to transfer monies from various funds to the Local Roads and Bridges Fund, for the sole purpose of establishing the matching funds for the Local Roads and Bridges Grant also known as the Community Crossings Grant. It was decided to table the vote on this resolution until the May 2, 2017 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

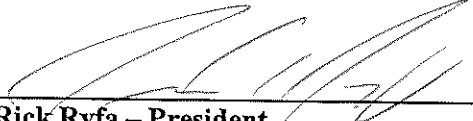
- a. Marilyn Glinski, 1187 Sawgrass, Griffith, IN expressed concern because a contractor doing excavation work for phase 3 in the Turnberry Subdivision severed a power cable that caused a power outage in Trail Creek. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott assured MS Glinski that the underground cables were properly marked before the excavation but that the area being excavated was in close proximity to the power cables and they must have been damaged by accident. NIPSCO restored power within a few hours. MS Glinski also expressed concern over the dewatering that is occurring in the Turnberry subdivision. She said there is a lot of sand in the discharge water and is concerned that it will have a detrimental effect on the sewer system in Trail Creek. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott told her the contractor should


put a sock near the drain to capture the sand. He will contact the necessary parties to get this taken care of.

- b. Gabriel Missal, 814 N Colfax, Griffith, IN expressed concern that there is no sidewalk in front of the house and this makes it difficult to play with his sister. Gabriel is a member of St. Mary's Cub Scout Pack 518. Council President Rick Ryfa assured Gabriel that the Town would look into the matter.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 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