

**APRIL 4, 2017**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 4, 2017 meeting to order at 7:01 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:**

Sergeant Shawn T. Anderson, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, LA

Detective Jason T. Weiland, Everest Metropolitan Police Department, WI

Police Officer Justin Terney, Tecumseh Police Department, OK

Police Officer Nicholas Rodman, Louisville Metro Police Department, KY

Assistant Chief Deputy Clinton Greenwood, Harris County Constable's Office, Precinct 3, TX

### **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 Schwerd– 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 James Marker moved to adopt the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 11330 - 11509, in the amount of \$1,315,276.35 (One Million, Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy-six dollars and Thirty-five cents). A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 6:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will be a study session on Tuesday April 25, 2017 at 6:00pm.

### **2. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve a request from the American Legion Auxiliary to hold their annual Poppy Days fundraiser on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member James Marker read a letter from the YMCA about their annual campaign to raise charitable funds. Anyone wishing to contribute may contact the local YMCA for details.
- c. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve a request of the Griffith YMCA to hold YOGA IN THE PARK. The program will be on Mondays from 6:00pm to 7:00pm beginning June 5, 2017 and continue through August. There will be no charge for this program. Seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow the Clerk Treasurer's office to send a letter to town retirees about an increase in their portion of the retiree's health insurance. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member Tony Hobson introduced the Town's 2017 Façade Program. It will be available to commercial establishments in the Town of Griffith and provides up to 50/50 matching funds for sign and façade upgrades, with a

\$3750.00 maximum match for signs and a \$5000.00 maximum match for façade improvements.

**REPORTS:**

1. Public Works – Public Works Director Rick Konopasek requested permission to sign a change order in regards to the Community Crossings Grant. The change order is for \$159,850.69 to improve the drainage on Industrial Drive which is part of the CCG. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to sign the change order, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to direct Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to contact the Town of Highland about their participation in the paving of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. in regards to the Community Crossings Grant. Seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek also advised that the Request For Proposals (RFP's) for the relining of the main interceptor sewer line from 45<sup>th</sup> Ave north to the Cline Ave. Pump Station would be mailed to several engineering firms this week. The RFP's would also be available in the Public Works Office and the Clerk Treasurer's office at Town Hall.
2. Police – Police Chief Greg Mance announce that the Griffith Police Department is partnering with the Griffith Public Schools in a program to raise awareness about heroin addiction. There will be a program next Tuesday, April 11 at the schools. Chief Mance also announced that the Coroner will be at the next Crime Watch meeting on April 20, 2017.
3. Fire – No Report
4. Pending Items – None

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. None.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins did a second reading of Ordinance 2017-21, an ordinance establishing an inspection fee of two percent (2%) for the inspection of site, public facilities and public improvements throughout the construction process. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann introduced resolution 2017-27, a resolution transferring funds in the budgets of various departments of the Town of Griffith. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to approve resolution 2017-27, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann introduced resolution 2017-28, a resolution transferring appropriations in the budgets of various departments within the General Fund of the Town of Griffith. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to approve resolution 2017-28, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the replacement of fencing at the Babe Ruth Baseball Fields in Central Park, the bid is in excess of \$50,000.00 and will be paid out of the Park Bond Proceeds, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member James Marker made a motion to support the Legacy Foundation in conjunction with the Neighborhood Spotlight a request to install historical markers at the Griffith Historical Park, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

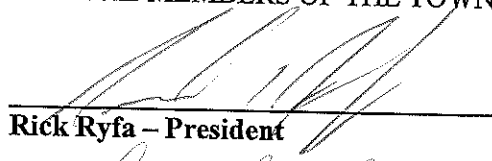
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**


- a. James Konopasek, 311 W. 44<sup>th</sup>, Griffith, IN. Expressed concerns about the paving of 45<sup>th</sup> where it borders the Town of Highland, Council President Rick Ryfa assured him that the Town of Griffith would not pay for the paving of the Highland portion of 45<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Konopasek also inquired about the status of the Calumet Township issue and was advised by Council President Rick Ryfa that the matter is still in the hands of the courts and we are waiting on their decision before proceeding. Mr. Konopasek

- suggested turning the vacant land just south of the old bank building into a park and naming it after deceased Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the Town is considering making that area a Municipal Parking lot to help alleviate the congested parking in the downtown area.
- b. Joseph Kras, 1215 Sawgrass Drive, Griffith, IN. Complimented the Public Works Department for cleaning up and removing dead trees and bushes on Fairbanks.

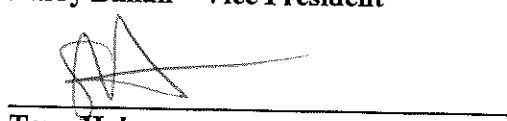
**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.**

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

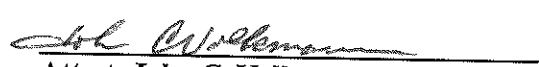
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer