

**March 7, 2017**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 7, 2017 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**NONE**

#### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Larry Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

#### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

Nancy Bozinovich – Deputy Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Chief of Police-Absent  
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner  
Robert Schwerd – Attorney for the Town  
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief  
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 10958-11142, in the amount of \$713,044.61. (Seven Hundred and Thirteen Thousand, Forty four Dollars and Sixty one Cents) A motion was made by Council Member Jim Marker to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 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 March 14 at 6:00pm in Town Hall.

#### **2. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve a request by Griffith Izzak Walton to display a banner for their Wild Game Dinner on our fence located on the corner of Colfax and Main Street, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

### **REPORTS:**

1. Public Works – No Report
2. Police –11 week Citizen Academy class, applications can be found online or in the police lobby
3. Fire – No Report
4. Pending Items – None

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

- a. None.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council President Rick Ryfa made the announcement that Council Member Melissa Robbins will be the liaison for the Voluntary Fire Dept, Senior Center and EMS (Emergency Medical Service)
- b. Council President Rick Ryfa addressed the South Shore Train Extension. He said the Town was first approached in 2014 about funding the extension. At that time the Town agreed to 20,000 a year which they turned down. We the

Council decided to have the residents input on this. So far we received 36 emails 30 where opposed and 6 where for it, out of those 6, 4 where non-residents of Griffith. At this time we will ask the public for comments.

1. Perry Stabler of Hessville, Strongly opposes it. He would like the money to go to our schools.

2. Joe Wszolek of Greater NWI Association of Realtors bought supporting documents and encourages our support.

3. Liz Coral 829 S Indiana, Griffith, IN, Opposes, South Shore needs better service before they add more trains.

4. Tom Felix 626 E Ash PL, Griffith, IN. Opposes, The extension will require higher fairs and taxes.

5. Heather Ennis, President of NWI Forum, Supports the extension it will attract future businesses to the area.

6. Ed & Kim Roush, 1208 N. Wheeler, both oppose, Ed stated people that need the train won't live by the train, spend the money to beautiful our region. Kim commented as a realtor that she didn't agree with GNIAR supporting documents, it did not pertain to our area; Griffith has no more growth possibility.

7. Mitch Gaffigan NWI Forum, Supporter. Will improve our quality of life. And projection claims for every dollar we but in will get 4 back over the next 20 years.

8. Leah Konrady, One Region Supports, Millennials will be attacked to the region. Lake County is losing population and this would increase it.

9. Eric Andree 323 S Griffith Blvd. Griffith, IN, Opposes, too much money to spend when East Chicago station is close to us.

10. Kathy Ruskin 1103 E Lake St, Griffith, IN, Opposes, Spend it in our school systems to keep our talent here. 30 years from now travel will be different.

11. Gilber Baldazo 949 W Ash, Griffith, IN, Opposes, He is a PACE van driver, another means of transportation to get into the city.

12. Roane Purgert 1831 N Rensselaer, Griffith, IN, Opposes, It comes down to 75 million per mile.

13. Tim Diamond 406 Canterbury, Griffith, IN, Opposes, Doesn't see a problem with the current station. Projects need to be done in our Town first.

14. Monica Kliza 500 E Elm St, Griffith, IN, Opposes, 30 years is way too long, does not object to investing a little.

15. Roy Schoon 304 N Dwiggins, Griffith, IN, Opposes, Offered them money before which they refused shouldn't get another chance.

All Council Members Opposed it for various reasons from Fix the present train service before adding more, another route was never considered using east & west tracks through our Town, rejected our first offer our Town comes first would like to keep our budget on track and the General Assembly is voting on new tax increases for our citizens on Gasoline, License plates and Cigarettes'

Council member Tony Hobson stated the Council will defer the decision until the General Assembly is adjourned, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballan. Motion Carried.

- c. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion for a continuous for Ordinance 2017-21 Engineering Inspection Fee it will go before the Plan Commision first, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion for a continuous on Ordinance 2017-20 Trash Fees until we have a signed contract, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

- e. Ordinance 2017-12: An Ordinance on the Sanitary District Bond Issuance. A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to accept this ordinance and seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

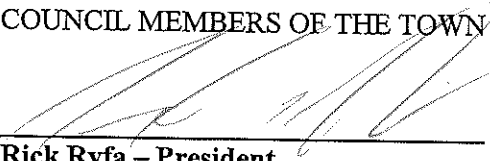
- a. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Resolution 2017-15: A Resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund seconded by Council Member Jim Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member James Marker moved to approve the financing of new public work vehicles, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Melissa Robbins gave a first reading of Ordinance 2017-19 An Ordinance on Sewer use. Attorney Robert Schwerd added that this will limit what chemicals can be put in our sewers and that the Companies will have to get sampling done at their expense.
- d. Council Member Tony Hobson read and made a motion for JW Sims Engineering agreement for SCADA system, which will be signed by JW Sims and Council President Rick Ryfa. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member Jim Marker read and motioned a LPA award recommendation which will be signed by Public Works Director Rick Konopasek. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Melissa Robbins read and motioned the purchase of 4, all-wheel drive, Utility Police Interceptors on the recommendation of the Safety Board, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker. Motion Carried.

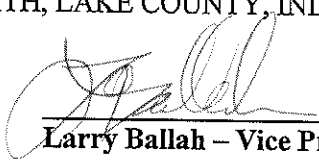
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- a. Mark Rucinski, 1043 Redar Rd. Griffith, IN, wanted to know if there was any new news on the process of rezoning from light industrial to residential. Council President Rick Ryfa told him to speak with our Building Commissioner Steve McDermott after the meeting.
- b. Park Board President Tim Diamond 406 Canterbury Rd, Griffith IN, announced that the five year master plan for the Parks will be presented at the next Park Board meeting Monday 3/13/17. He also inquired about Calumet Township. Rick Ryfa stated that its still up to the courts.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.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 Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer