

January 17, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 17, 2017 meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Lieutenant Debra Clayton, Orlando Police Department, FL

Detective Steven McDonald, New York City Police Department, NY

ROLL CALL:

James Marker - Absent

Larry Ballah

Rick Ryfa

Tony Hobson

Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

John Volkmann - Clerk Treasurer

Greg Mance - Chief of Police

Steve McDermott - Building Commissioner

Robert Schwerdt - Attorney for the Town

Rick Konopasek - Director Public Works

Roy Schoon - Fire Chief absent

Don Hill - Asst. Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER MELISSA ROBBINS WARD 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 10295 - 10543 in the amount of \$1,407,244.75 (One Million, Four Hundred Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, 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 Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 5:30pm.
2. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the Griffith Sanitary Board will be sending out Requests for Proposals for the Main Interceptor work for the Griffith Sanitary Department.
3. Council President Rick Ryfa presented a certificate of appreciation and recognition to Battalion Commander Martin Michels. Commander Michels retired from Griffith Volunteer Fire Department on December 31, 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson read a letter from the CN Railroad. The CN is offering the use of a proprietary software package to the Town at no cost. The software system allows emergency response dispatchers to know in advance when railroad/street crossings on the former EJ&E Railroad were clear or if the gates were down. Council Member Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the Letter of Agreement. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC - No Report
2. Public Works - Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that there is a fire hydrant at Jay St. and Oak St. near Wadsworth School that is leaking. Emergency repairs will be made by Grimmer Construction. The repairs will not require the school to be closed.
3. Police - Police Chief Greg Mance advised that the Griffith Crime Watch meeting

will be on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00pm, the meeting will be held at the Griffith Senior Center.

4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
 - a. Council Member Larry Ballah read Resolution 2017-04. A resolution approving an Interlocal governmental agreement between the Town of Griffith and The Griffith Public Schools for the utilization of a second School Resource Officer Program Services. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-04, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
 - b. Council President Rick Ryfa read Ordinance 2017-05, this ordinance sets forth uniform requirements for Users of the Publicly Owned Treatment Works for the Town of Griffith and enables Griffith to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws, including the Clean Water Act and the General Pretreatment Regulations. This was a first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to appoint Stan Dobosz to the Town of Griffith Safety Board. Motion Carried.
- b. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that Council assignments and appointments would be postponed until the February 7, 2017 meeting.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa sign a Interlocal agreement for the design, installation and operation of an emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) system. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Larry Ballah read Ordinance 2017-06, an ordinance vacating a 16 foot wide public alley in the Crescent Subdivision within the Town of Griffith. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson read Resolution 2017-03, a resolution concerning the disbursement of Park Bond Proceeds. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried
- b. Council Member Larry Ballah read the BZA findings of facts to allow the sale of motor vehicles at 1581 N. Cline Ave. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept the Favorable Recommendation of the BZA. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to amend the BZA Favorable Recommendation as follows: to delete from paragraph 5, subparagraph c the following “Subsequent to non-payment on invoices for repair services rendered on the car at the Property.” Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

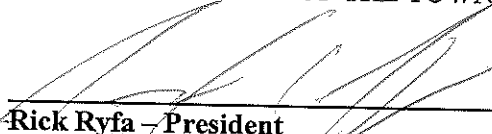
1. Michael Riese, 1912 Indiana. Mr. Riese asked for an update on the Calumet Township. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that it is still in the court system and that March 3, 2017 was the first court date on the matter. Mr. Riese also questioned why the Library sign says “Town of Griffith and Calumet Township Library”. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the Library has total control over the library and named it as such. Mr. Riese also urged everyone to attend

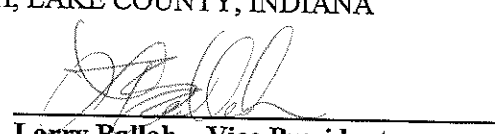
the next County Council Meeting on February 14, 2017 to protest the appointment of Jamal Washington as vice-president of the Council because of his domestic abuse charges.

2. Tim Diamond, 406 Canterbury Rd., asked for clarification on Resolution 2017-03. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that any spending items related to the Park Bond over \$25000.00 would require Council approval before being spent. The Council would be another set of eyes on Bond spending, which is very specific.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45p.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