

January 03, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 03, 2017 meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Lieutenant William G. Fearon, New Jersey State Police, NJ

Trooper Landon E. Weaver, Pennsylvania State Police, PA

ROLL CALL:

James Marker

Larry Ballah

Rick Ryfa

Tony Hobson

ALSO ATTENDING:

John Volkmann - Clerk Treasurer

Greg Mance – Chief of Police

Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner

Robert Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

Rick Konopasek – Director Public Works absent

Roy Schoon – Fire Chief absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the December 29, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 1029 – 20194 in the amount of \$100,285.87 (One Hundred Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-five Dollars and Eighty-seven 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, January 17, 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 10, 2017 at 5:30pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter from the Griffith Republican Central Committee to Council President Rick Ryfa stating that a Caucus will be held on January 16, 2017 to replace Council Member Patricia Schaadt.

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Public Works – No Report
3. Police – No Report
4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. None.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Clerk Treasurer John C. Volkmann introduced Resolution R2017-01, a resolution to transfer appropriations in order to eliminate negative balances in certain appropriations. A motion was made by Council Member Tony Hobson to accept Resolution R2017-01 and seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

- b. The following appointments were made to the various Boards and Commissions within the Town
- Board of Zoning Appeals: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to reappoint John Mowery and Danielle Carlson to the BZA, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- Economic Development Commission: Council Member James Marker made a motion to reappoint Jeff Bridges to the EDC, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- EMS: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to reappoint Dorothy Soverly to the EMS Board, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- Parks and Recreation Board: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to reappoint John Dudlicik to the Park Board, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- Redevelopment Commission: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to reappoint Rich Miller and appoint Council President Rick Ryfa to the RDC, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa appointed Council Members James Marker, Larry Ballah and Tony Hobson to the RDC.
- Sanitary Board: Council Member James Marker made a motion to reappoint Jim Hennes to the Sanitary Board, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- Safety Board: Council Member James Marker made a motion to reappoint Liz Goral and appoint Shawn Graham to the Safety Board, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- Storm Water Board: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to reappoint George Jerome to the Sanitary Board, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Diane Jerome, 542 N. Griffith, Griffith. Asked if it is possible to get a street light installed where the Bike Trail intersects Cline Ave. There is a lot of activity in that area even at night and it is very difficult to see people using the Bike Trail.
2. Jim Masters, 405 Canterbury, Griffith. Asked what the Council was going to do about the traffic congestion at the intersection of Broad St. and Main Street. He suggested changing the traffic signals and allowing right turn on red. He was advised by Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek and Council President that because it is an off-set intersection the solutions are very limited but that the Town would be open to any reasonable suggestions he had.
3. David Thompson (did not give an address) asked Council President Rick Ryfa if he (Rick) was going to take over Council Member Patricia Schaadt's vacant council seat. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that one must be a resident of the ward in question in order to be considered for filling that council seat.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27p.m.

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

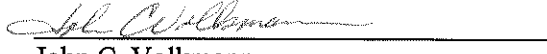

Rick Ryfa, President


James Marker


Larry Ballah


Tony Hobson

Attest:


John C. Volkmann
Clerk-Treasurer