

December 20, 2016

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 20, 2016 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty were read by Council Member James Marker:

Corrections Officer Lisa Maldin, Miller County Sheriff's Office, AR

Public Safety Officer Jody Smith, Georgia Southwestern State University, GA

Police Officer Nicholas Smarr, Americus Police Department, GA

ROLL CALL:

James Marker

Larry Ballah

Rick Ryfa

Tony Hobson

Patricia Schaadt

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

Roy Schoon – Fire Chief

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 9954 - 10183 in the amount of \$1,471,207.79 (One Million, Four Hundred Seventy-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Seven Dollars and Seventy-Nine Cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 3:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 2:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will not be a study session Tuesday, December 27, 2016.
2. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Town is still accepting applications for appointment to the following boards: Park Board, Safety Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and the Plan Commission. Interested parties should send a letter of interest and resume to the Griffith Town Hall, 111 N. Broad St., Griffith, IN 46319, Attn: Clerk Treasurer. Interested Parties must also state their political affiliation. We will accept applications through 12/31/16.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Public Works – No Report
3. Police – Chief of Police Greg Mance stated that it was the 53rd anniversary of Griffith Police Department's only "in the line of duty" death. Lt. Texas Minter was killed in a duty-related traffic accident.
4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
 - a. Hammond Sanitary District/Water Treatment – Council President Rick Ryfa advised that negotiations are ongoing.
 - b. Calumet Township/Secession Vote – Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the process is still in the hands of the Courts.
 - c. Griffith Park Plaza – Council President Rick Ryfa stated that we are still proceeding with the project.

- d. Council Member Tony Hobson nominated Danielle Carlson to become a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member James Marker nominated Christine Wroblewski to become a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried. Council President asked the Clerk Treasurer John C. Volkmann to notify both nominees of their appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Ordinance 2016-56 and ordinance setting the Salaries and Wages of the various officials and employees of the Town of Griffith for the year 2017, effective pay date January 12, 2017. This ordinance was read by Council Member Tony Hobson and seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Council President commented that the Salary Ordinance grants all full time Town Employees a two percent (2%) increase and that there is no increase for part-time employees. Motion Carried.
- b. The sale of 407 N. Broad to Griffith Public Schools. Town Attorney Robert Schwerd advised that the quiet title is not complete and that it could be thirty (30) days or more before it is completed.
- c. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Town of Griffith Safety Board to donate two (2) surplus Fire Department Mack Engines to the District 1 Firefighter Training Facility. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried
- d. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion by Council Member Patricia Schaadt that recommends sending the Interlocal agreement for the Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) System to the Town of Griffith Safety Board for their review and recommendation and also for it to be reviewed by the Town of Griffith Police and Volunteer Fire Departments. Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- e. Clerk Treasurer John C. Volkmann read a letter from Richard Starkey of Barnes & Thornburg in reference to the Calumet College Bond. "I have been informed by Calumet College's financial advisor that the recent movement upward of interest rates has caused the refinancing for the College to become unfeasible. There simply is not savings associated with the higher interest rates. The college is most grateful for the Town's willingness to step forward and assist them and wish the timing were better. Please forward any invoices associated with your work thus far directly to Dan at the College at the e mail above."
- f. Council Member Larry Ballah read a letter from Steve McDermott Building Commissioner for the Town of Griffith to Council President Rick Ryfa. "Please allow this correspondence to certify that the Town of Griffith Plan Commission at their scheduled Public Hearing of December 7, 2016, gave an unfavorable recommendation concerning a proposal by Brent Tomczak to rezone the property commonly referred to as 613 N. Broad Street, Griffith, Indiana from R2 (Single-Family Residence District) to R3 (Single – to Four –Family Residence District)". Mr. Tomczak was allowed to speak to this issue. He stated that he intends to live in the residence, that he would be refinancing in the spring, that the property is essentially a duplex already and that he could not foresee anyone, including himself converting it to a multi-family residence. He appealed to the Council to override the Plan Commission and approve the

zoning change. Council Member Larry Ballah and Council President Rick Ryfa both stated that to allow the zoning change was akin to Spot Zoning, which is not allowed and that they are looking to the future of the Town in limiting the zoning in the area to Single Family zoning. A Motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to accept the Plan Commission's unfavorable recommendation for the said property. Seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

- g. A motion was made by Council Member James Marker and seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign a contract renewal with Republic Services. Motion Carried. Republic Services provides trash and recycling pick up for the Town and will maintain the same rates for 2017 as in 2016.
- h. Council Member Larry Ballah read a Petition Requesting a Vacation of a Public Alley at the address commonly known as 510 Ridge Road, Griffith, Indiana. Mr. Ballah stated that this is still under review and no further action will be taken at this time.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. A motion was made by Council Member Patricia Schaadt to approve the contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for The Construction Inspection Agreement for the Erie Lackawanna-Oak Savanna Connection Project – DES # 1382658. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- b. A motion was made by Council Member Patricia Schaadt to approve the contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for the Construction Inspection Agreement for the – Erie Lackawanna-Main St. Crossing Improvement Project – DES# 1500321. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson presented an agreement from Robinson Engineering for the Community Crossings Project DES# 1601618. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to sign the agreement with Robinson Engineering for Construction Layout and Inspection for this project, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried. Council Member Tony Hobson made another motion to allow Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to sign the agreement with Robinson Engineering for the Drainage Investigation on Industrial Drive as it relates to this project, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- d. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that Walsh & Kelly be awarded the contract for the Community Crossings Grant, bid price \$1,320,742.32 (One Million, Three Hundred Twenty Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty Two Dollars and Thirty-two Cents). A motion was made by Council Member James Marker to award the Community Crossings Grant to Walsh & Kelly and seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- e. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to extend the contracts for Walsh & Kelly, Co-Ex Concrete and Pinkerton Fuels for the year 2017, these contractors will maintain 2016 prices for 2017. Seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member James Marker made a motion to accept the Deed of Dedication from NIPSCO to the Town of Griffith for right of way over their property to be used as Trail Creek Drive, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

- g. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa sign a proposal from Aztec Audio/Video for Aztec to provide pre and post production services to created descriptive and entertaining content that will feature Griffith businesses, schools, parks, events, and social services. Aztec will also provide services to create and manage approved social media platforms. Seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38p.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