

December 6, 2016

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 6, 2016 meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Deputy Commander Patrick Thomas Carothers, US Department of Justice, US Marshals Service, US

Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi, San Antonio Police Department, TX

Deputy Sheriff Eric James Oliver, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, FL

Sergeant Collin James Rose, Wayne State University Police Department, MI

Police Officer Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez, Tacoma Police Department, WA

ROLL CALL:

James Marker

Larry Ballah

Rick Ryfa

Tony Hobson

Patricia Schaadt

ALSO ATTENDING:

John Volkmann - Clerk Treasurer

Keith Martin - Commander Police Dept.

Steve McDermott - Building Commissioner

Brent Torrenga - Attorney for the Town

Rick Konopasek - Director Public Works

Roy Schoon - Fire Chief

Sheri Bradke-McNeil - Attorney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to adopt the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 9734 - 9953 in the amount of \$1,243,877.88 (One Million, Two Hundred Forty-three Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy-seven Dollars and Eighty-eight Cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2016 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, December 13, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Town Hall.
2. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Town is 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
3. Council Member Patricia Schaadt read a Proclamation in support of the celebration of the State of Indiana's 200th Birthday. A motion to authorize Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the Proclamation was made by Council Member Patricia Schaadt and seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson read an announcement that Lake County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency has blankets available at their office due to the cold weather. Interested parties should call 1-219-755-3549 or email Adrian Santos, Deputy Director at asantos.as1262@gmail.com to set up a time and date for picking up the blankets.
2. Special Agent Eric Graff of the Canadian National Railroad on behalf of the Illinois Association of Chief of Police and Christine Graff and James Zackas,

the Indiana and Illinois representatives for Operation Lifesaver presented an award to Police Chief Greg Mance. The Achievement of Excellence Award was given for his dedication and commitment to rail safety, his ongoing support of Operation Lifesaver and his continuous support of the Midwest Rail Safety Week of 2016. Commander Keith Martin accepted the award for Chief Mance who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

3. Ken Karlstedt of the Griffith Neighborhood Spotlight Program gave an update on the vision, goals and accomplishments of the organization. More information is available at www.facebook.com/griffithspotlight/ or at takumikek@aol.com.

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Public Works – Rick Konopasek, Public Works Director, advised that NIPSCO has started replacing old high-pressure sodium street lights with new LED lights. This is only being done on NIPSCO owned lights and there will be no cost to the Town.
3. Police – No Report
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 December 20, 2016 – Council President Rick Ryfa advised that due to the pending lawsuit by Calumet Township Trustee Kimberly Robinson there may be a delay in the secession vote. He also stated that the DLGF has filed suit to dismiss the allegations against them..
 - c. Griffith Park Plaza – Council President Rick Ryfa stated that we are still proceeding with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Laura Gaby, 1010 W. Elm Place, Griffith, IN: Asked in reference to the Calumet Township issue if we would have to start all over again. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that it is still to be determined and is in the hands of the Judge.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Ordinance 2016-50: An ordinance amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article III Sewer Service Division I. Section 78 -96 – Definitions, by the addition of language to the definition of “Commercial Users” and amending Section 78 – 107 – Wastewater Sampling by the additions of subsections a., b., c., and d. A motion to table this Ordinance was made by Council Member Tony Hobson and seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Ordinance 2016-54: An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana authorizing the issuance of its “Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2016 (Calumet College of St. Joseph Project) in one or more series and approving and authorizing other actions in respect thereto. A motion to approve this ordinance was made by Council Member Larry Ballah and seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Motion Carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member James Marker read Ordinance 2016-56, an ordinance setting the Salaries and Wages for the Town of Griffith for the year 2017. This was a first reading for ordinance 2016-56.
- b. Clerk Treasurer, John Volkmann introduced Resolution 2016-57. A resolution adopting the SBOA Internal Control Standards for the Town of Griffith. A motion to accept Resolution 2016-57 was made by Council

Member Larry Ballah and seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt. Motion Carried.

- c. Brent Torrenge, Town Attorney Representative, gave an update on the sale of 407 N. Broad St. to the Griffith Public Schools. Mr. Torrenge stated that the title company is requiring title to be quieted on the land before they will insure it. He also stated that the search has been ordered and are in the process of quieting title.
- d. A motion was made to allow Rick Konopasek, Public Works Director, solicit a RFQ for the Town of Griffith Main Sewer Interceptor work and a SCADA system by Council Member Tony Hobson and seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- e. A motion was made to continue a recommendation by The Griffith Safety Board to donate two surplus Fire Department Mack Engines to the District 1 Firefighter Training Facility by Council Member James Marker and Seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Larry Ballah announced that in light of the fact that Town vehicles are being equipped with GPS a policy will be developed in this regard and added to the Personnel Policy Manual for the Town.
- g. Council Member Patricia Schaadt announced that the Town would take under advisement an Interlocal Agreement involving an Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) System with some of the surrounding communities.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING:

- a. A Board of Public Works Meeting was called to order at 7:41pm by Board Member Larry Ballah, all members were present. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint a new member to the Lake County Solid Waste Management District (LCSWMD). Member Tony Hobson nominated Member James Marker. All voted in favor of Mr. Marker to be appointed to the LCSWMD. The meeting was closed at 7:43pm.

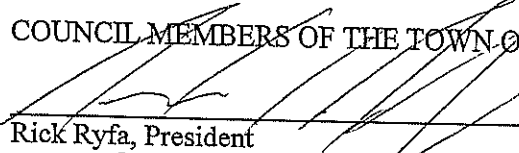
PUBLIC COMMENTS:


- a. Marty Michaels, 1141 Lafayette, Griffith, spoke in favor of donating the two Mack Engines to the District 1 Firefighter Training Facility. He stated that we could get a couple of thousand dollars apiece for the Engines but the good will derived from the donation and the enhancement of the training facilities far outweighs any monetary gain.
- b. John Dudlicek 223 N. Elgin, Griffith, announced that there will be a robotics tournament at Griffith High School on January 15, 2017 from 10:00am until 4:00pm. They are looking for volunteers to assist in set up, judging and a variety of other activities. Interested parties can email ctrlaltdestroy9862@gmail.com for more information.
- c. Al Bajorek, 1245 Thistle Ave., Griffith, expressed concern that he had seen a hunter in a tree stand with a rifle in an unincorporated area near the Trail Creek Subdivision. He said that he had contacted the Schererville and Griffith Police Departments but was told it was out of their jurisdiction. Commander Keith Martin assured Mr. Bajorek that if citizens were in danger the Griffith Police would respond and take appropriate action even if it was out of their jurisdiction.

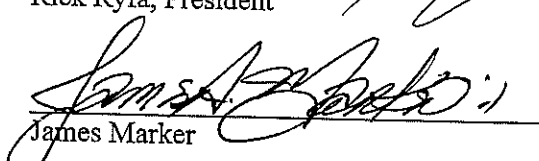
This space intentionally left blank.

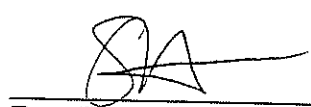
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50p.m.


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


Rick Ryfa, President

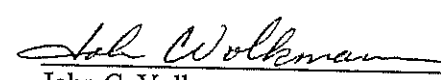

Patricia Schaadt


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Larry Ballah

Attest:


John C. Volkmann
Clerk-Treasurer