

**May 1, 2018**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 1, 2018 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

- Sergeant Noel Ramirez, Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office, FL
- Deputy Sheriff Taylor Lindsey, Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office, FL
- Corporal Eugene Cole, Somerset County Sheriff's Office, ME
- Police Officer Rogelio Santander, Jr., Dallas Police Department, TX
- Police Officer Jesus "Chuy" Cordova, Nogales Police Department, AZ
- Police Officer Charles Whites, Round Rock Police Department, TX

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Lawrence Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Chief of Police  
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner  
Sheri Bradtke-McNeil – Attorney for the Town  
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief - Absent  
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief - Absent  
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 17233 – 17397, \$874,228.59 (Eight hundred seventy-four thousand, two hundred twenty-eight dollars and fifty-nine cents). Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next council meeting will be on Tuesday May 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a study session at 6:30 p.m. and one will follow if necessary. There will be a study session on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. There will not be a study session on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 due to the Primary Elections on that date.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson read a proclamation from Governor Eric Holcomb declaring the month of May to be Building Safety Month 2018.
2. Former Clerk Treasurer George Jerome made a presentation to Carole Bezat in honor of her late husband Leonard Bezat for his many years of service and dedication to the Griffith Parks Department. She was presented with a plaque that will be placed in the Pavilion at Central Park.

### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that the repaving of Colfax Ave. from 45<sup>th</sup> St to Main St. will start after Memorial Day and should be completed around August 15, 2018. He also asked for permission to advertise for concrete work bids for various Town projects. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow the Director of Public Works to advertise for concrete, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- Police - No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Finance - No Report

**PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:**

1. Calumet Township Secession update: We are waiting for the appeal deadline to pass.
2. Golf Course update: No Report
3. Interceptor Project: Still reviewing proposals

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Paul Stewart and several others who did not give their names expressed concerns about the rezoning of Family Video location from B1 to B3 so that Family Express could build a gas station at that location. They stated concerns about traffic, noise and that Family Express had applied for a liquor license. They were advised that under the current zoning 53 different types of businesses could occupy that area including liquor stores and smoke shops. They were also advised that Family Express is a very reputable business in the area. A representative of Family Express stated concerns about some of the language in the Findings of Fact "The rezone from B-1 to B-3 would be for this location only and this applicant only;" and if this would put restrictions on Family Express in the event of the retirement of the owner or his possible desire to leave the property to an heir. He was advised that as long as Family Express was the owner the property could stay as a gas station/convenience store there should be no problem. All in attendance were advised that a decision on the rezone would be voted on this evening.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-09, a resolution approving and authorizing the sale of beer and wine in Central Park during certain Town sponsored events, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member James Marker did a first reading of Ordinance 2018-12. The change in this ordinance is in regards to a perfect attendance incentive bonus.
- c. Council Member Lawrence Ballah read the Findings of Fact for Family Express for the rezone of 1208-1216 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. Griffith, IN.: A) The rezone from B-1 to B-3 would be for this location only and this applicant only; B) The daily hours of operation are from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; C) No car wash at this location; D) The LED lighting at this location will be directed downward and away from surrounding neighbors; E) There will be fencing/barriers between this location and surrounding neighbors; F) No Fueling for semi-tractor trailers will be conducted at this location; and G) This approval is contingent upon site plan approval by the Plan Commission. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve the rezone with the above noted conditions, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to deny the zoning change at 331 N. Broad St., Griffith, IN from B-2 to R-2, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member James Marker opened the SCADA Project bids. (See attached). Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to forward the bids to the Town Attorney and the Director of Public Works for review, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- f. Council President Rick Ryfa opened the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant for 2018. There being no Public Comment he continued.
- g. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-13, a resolution authorizing and directing the Town Council President of the Town of Griffith to submit a project proposal for CDBG funds for fiscal year 2018, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.
- h. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-14, a resolution authorizing the Town of Griffith to enter into an agreement with County of Lake, Indiana in undertaking Community Development Activities, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.

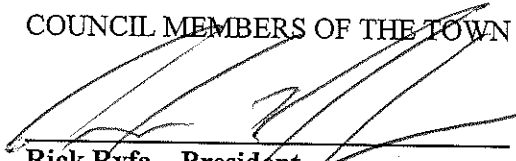
- i. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve the Cooperation Agreement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2021, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- j. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve the Affirmative Action Program Agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- k. Council President Rick Ryfa read Section 3 understanding.
- l. Council President Rick Ryfa explained the Project Application. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Council President to sign and submit the Project Application for the Fireman's Park Playground, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.


**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tim Diamond, President of the Griffith Park Board, asked if there were any fund available from the 2017 Sanitary District Bond that could be used for Park improvements. He was advised that the Bond could only be used for Sanitary District Projects. He also asked if the use of glass containers in the park could be addressed. Ramona Dujmovic inquired about purchasing some of the street signs that are being replaced. She was advised that the old sign could possibly be put up for auction but that at present there is no decision on how the signs will be disposed of.


**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12p.m.**

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

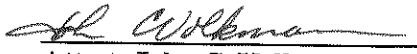
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer

