

**May 15, 2018**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 15, 2018 meeting to order at 7:05 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:

- Police Officer Robert Shawn Pitts, Terre Haute Police Department, IN
- Agent Joel Alexis Pantojas-Fuente, San Juan Police Department, PR
- Deputy Sheriff Willim J. Gentry Jr., Highlands County Sheriff's Office, FL
- Griffith Police Chief Gregory Mance announced that May 15 is Peace Officer Memorial Day and flags were flown at half staff.

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Lawrence Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 17398 – 17609, \$834,171.00 (Eight hundred thirty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-one dollars and no cents). Council Member James Marker 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, June 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a study session at 6:30 p.m. and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., with a study session at 6:00 p.m.
3. There will be a Town Council study session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker introduced the Town of Griffith Vision Statement (attached). Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the Town of Griffith Vision Statement, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve a request from A Park Full of Art to put up banners along Broad St. and other locations in Town, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to provide \$500.00 (Five hundred dollars and no cents) to A Park Full of Art from Tourism Funds to help publicize the event, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – No Report
- Police - No Report
- Fire – Fire Chief Roy Schoon reported that \$2,400.00 was raised for the Hoosier Burn Camp on the recent Boot Drive.
- Finance - No Report

**PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:**

1. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update: The Township has appealed to the State Supreme Court. The State has released the current State Assistance Average and the Township is 29.7 times over the State Average and even if weighted numbers are used the Township is still 17.9 times over the limit. The Town will ask the Lake County Elections Board to schedule the referendum as soon as possible – hopefully during the summer.
2. Golf Course update: No Report
3. Interceptor Project: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update: The Town has received a proposal from Lawson Fisher for Inspection Services for the Interceptor project in the amount of \$275,000.00. The Town has decided to do an RFP for these services in order to see if more favorable pricing can be obtained.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Salary Ordinance 2018-12, perfect attendance incentive, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**


- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-15, a resolution transferring monies from various funds into the Local Roads and Bridges Fund for the sole purpose of establishing the matching funds for the Local Roads and Bridges Grant, also known as the Community Crossings Grant, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign an agreement with Wessler Engineering for Construction Observation Services for the Interceptor Sewer CIPP Repair Project, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to Reject all of the bids received for the SCADA project and put the project out for rebid, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the Safety Board recommendation to allow the Fire Department to purchase two (2) new vehicles, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried. One of these vehicles is a replacement for one that was damaged in an accident and will be paid for with an insurance settlement.
- e. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the Safety Board recommendation to allow the Police Department to purchase two (2) new SUV's, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to authorize the Town Council President to sign a Contract for Services with Norris, Choplin and Schoeder, LLP, Attorneys at Law for upcoming matters concerning the Griffith/Merrillville Airport, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- g. Council Member Melissa Robbins did a first reading of an ordinance amending ordinance 91-37, Chapter 14 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VI Unsafe Buildings, Section 14-301 adoption of State Standards.
- h. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to authorize the Town Council President to sign a Task Order for the Review of Existing Wastewater Collection System Data with Wessler Engineering, Inc. , seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- i. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to Table the agreement with Wessler Engineering, Inc. for On-Call Wastewater Engineering Services until the June 5, 2018 meeting, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- a. Musetta Yeager asked if the Koedyker subdivision could be annexed to the Town of Griffith. Council President Rick Ryfa responded that once the Calumet Township issue is resolved the Town will revisit this.
- b. Kathy Ruesken asked if Merrillville will be involved in the Airport. Craig Anderson of the Airport responded that Merrillville was added to the name to accommodate people wanting to fly in for events at the Radisson Hotel.
- c. Darren Washington of the Calumet Township Board stated that Griffith has been ignored for a long time and that he is committed to try and have some Calumet Township meetings in Griffith. He was advised that the Town Hall could be available for meetings on Mondays once a month.


**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

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

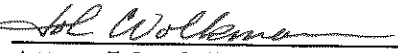
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
James Marker

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
Tony Hobson

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer