

September 18, 2018

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 18, 2018 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member James Marker read the names of the Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

- Corrections Officer Armando Galleos, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, CA
- Police Officer Garrett Hull, Fort Worth Police Department, TX
- Deputy Sheriff Robert K. Kunze, III, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, KS
- Deputy Sheriff Mark Stasyuk, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, CA

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson-Absent
Melissa Robbins-Absent

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
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meetings as presented, seconded by Council James Marker. Motion carried 3 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No. 19447 – 19736 in the amount of \$2,757,963.89 (Two million, seven hundred fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred sixty-three dollars and eighty-nine cents). Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2, 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 Town Council study session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
3. There will not be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Rick Konopasek, Director of Public Works, announced that Fire Hydrant testing and flushing will begin on September 24, 2018 through October 19, 2018. All hydrants south of 45th Avenue will be tested, residents will be notified via door-tag hangers one day prior to testing. Residents should refrain from doing laundry on their scheduled day as they may experience periods of cloudy or discolored water
2. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that a hurricane Florence relief collection drive will be conducted this week. Donations will be taken to the affected areas on Sunday 9/23/18. Donations can be dropped off at Town Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday.
3. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that there will be a National Handball Tournament on October 6, 2018 at Cheever Park. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow the organizers to serve beer and wine at this event between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and that there will be no cash sales of alcohol at this event, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried 3 in favor, none opposed.
4. Andy Qunell, the Griffith representative to the South Shore Convention and Visitor Authority, expressed his thanks for all of the hard work that the Town Council has done to improve the Town of Griffith. All of the festivals and improvement to the Town have made Griffith an integral part of promoting the benefits of Northwest Indiana and the SSCVA is proud to a partner in these efforts. Speros Batistatos, President and CEO of

SSCVA, also expressed his praise for the work of the Town Concil in improving the Town of Griffith.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek announced plans to temporarily close S. Arbogast/Fairbanks St. between Ave. H and Phillips Road on Friday, September 21, 2018 from 9:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of removing a tree and claring the ditch bank on the East side of Fairbanks.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – Assistant Fire Chief Don Hill expressed his thanks to all of those who supported the recent Fire Fest and special thanks to Council Member James Marker for his assistance in the Fire Department recruitment campaign.
- Finance - No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

TOWNSHIP ISSUES: Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update. The Special Election will take place on September 25, 2018, the polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., voter should go to their regular polling place to vote except for those that vote at Hildebrandt Hall, those voters will vote at the back of St. Mary's Church. Early voting is available at the Lake County Government Center until noon on Monday, September 24,2018.

Golf Course: No update

Interceptor Project: Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek stated that 2000 feet were lined last week.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Al Bajorek thanked all those who helped make the Trail Creek Block Party a success. He also said that some residents of Trail Creek were concerned that they would not be able to vote in the upcoming Special Election because Trail Creek is in St. John Township. He was advised that all Griffith registered voters would be allowed to vote even those in St. John Township.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-29, a resolution to transfer monies from the Flashing Beacon on Main Street to Casino because the project has been completed and there were excess funds, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-30, a resolution to transfer monies from Casino to the Trail Connector Project due to cost coming in over the bid price, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
3. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-33, a resolution to transfer appropriations with in the budgets of various departments, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
4. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-34, a resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
5. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve and agreement with Butler, Fairman and Seufert for Town of Griffith Planning & Building Application Software and GIS Initiation, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
6. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Griffith Public Schools and the Town of Griffith to have the Town provide 2 (two) Griffith Police Officers to serve as School Resource Officers, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.

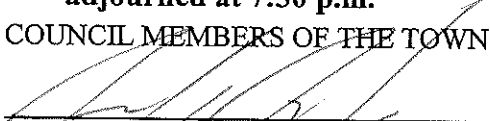
7. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the hiring of 13 (thirteen) Probationary Firefighters, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.
8. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign an agreement with the Reedy Financial Group P.C., to provide a variety of accounting analysis and consultation services, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 3 in favor none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Matthew Novak made the following comments. He stated that he loves everything about the Town and that the Council is doing an outstanding job. He also stated some concerns about the pedestrian yield signs that are on Broad St. south of the tracks and the ones near Central Park are not illuminated adequately and could something be done about it for the sake of safety. He also expressed concerns about the parking on south Broad St. He was advised that illuminating the yield signs would be looked into and that the parking on south Broad St. will be better when the vacant lots on east Broad are developed as parking lots. Mr. Novak also asked if the Council would pass a resolution in favor of the Steelworkers Union similar to the one recently passed by the Lake County Council. He was advised to forward an example of the resolution to the Clerk Treasurer who would distribute it to the Town Council for review and possible consideration.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

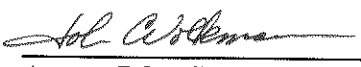

Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Larry Ballah – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: John C. Volkmann – Clerk Treasurer