

**October 2, 2018**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the October 2, 2018 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cub Scout Pack 525 led the Pledge for those in attendance.

### **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

- Patrolman James White, Brookhaven Police Department, MS
- Corporal Zach Moak, Brookhaven Police Department, MS

### **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 - Absent  
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  
Kieth Martin – Police Dept.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meetings as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 19737 – 19934 in the amount of \$1,225,893.94 (One million, two hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred ninety-three dollars and ninety-four cents). Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 16, 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, October 22, 2018.
4. The Public Hearing for the 2019 Budget will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 during the Town Council Meeting.
5. Oktoberfest will be on October 5, 6 and 7 in Central Park

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve a request from the Griffith VFW and American Legion to hang banners for their October 13, 2018 pierogi sale, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor none opposed.

### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek reported that hydrant flushing will continue thru next week. Door hangers will be placed to advise residents when their neighborhood will be done. The rail crossing on 45<sup>th</sup> should be open later this week, 2 manholes have to be lined. The interceptor project is on time and a little under budget.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – Assistant Fire Chief Don Hill reported that the Fire Department open house will be on October 14, 2018 from noon until 4:00 p.m. at Station 1, 130 N. Lafayette. He also reported that the insurance audit that was conducted in the spring resulted in an improved ISO rating for the Department
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance – Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann reported that the Public Notice for the 2019 budget will be available for review on Friday, October 5, 2018 at [www.budgetnotices.in.gov](http://www.budgetnotices.in.gov) or by calling (888)739-9826. The website and phone number will also be posted on the Town website under “Latest News”.

**PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:** Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update. Lake County has not certified the results of the special election yet. The unofficial count is 3260 "yes" votes and 70 "no" votes.

Golf Course: No update

Interceptor Project: See above Director of Public Works Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Kathy Rueskin stated that she is very pleased with the Council and likes the way they are leading the charge.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-31, a resolution requesting additional appropriations to correct a budgeting error in the Parks and Recreation Department, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Balla. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-32, a resolution requesting additional non-levied appropriations, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- c. Council Member Lawrence Ballah gave a brief synopsis of the 2018 Calumet Township tax rate vs. Surrounding Townships: The tax rates are: Calumet:0.347; North: 0.0789; St. John: 0.0111. Council Member Tony Hobson gave a brief synopsis of the Projected Property Tax Levies: Calumet: \$2,173,845.00; North:\$499,922.00; St. John: \$69,538.00. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that the full analysis will be posted to the Town website when it is finalized and approved. He also stated that there will be a special email address that residents can use to ask questions about the Township issue and updates and current information will be posted on the Town website.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Richard Cook asked when the webpage would be up. He was advised that it would be up by Friday, October 5, 2018. He was also advised that there would be no decision for at least 30 days on which Township we will join. That portion of Griffith that is in St. John Township will stay in St. John Township regardless of which Township Griffith moves to and there will be no change in the School structure.

Mike Gaby: Congradulated the Council on their victory. He went on to say that this started 10 years ago by his father, Bud Gaby, George Jerome and Rick Ryfa and that this is proud moment for everyone. This issue has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with bad stewardship. All of the hard work is greatly appreciated.

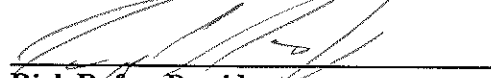
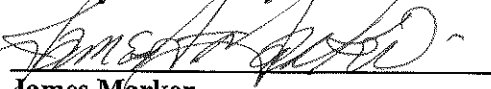
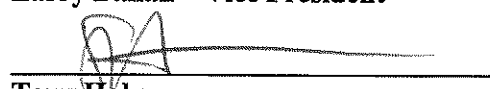
One of the Boy Scouts asked if the kids from Calumet Township that go to Griffith Schools were going to have to leave because of this. He was advised that no the kids would be able to continue to attend Griffith Schools.

Adam Schroader asked if House District Maps would be redrawn. He was advised that the maps would not be redrawn.

Tim Diamond announced that a National Handball Tournament will be held at Cheever Park on Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 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