

**November 13, 2018**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 13, 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 the Police Officers killed in the line of duty

- Trooper Kevin Keith Conner, North Carolina Highway Patrol, NC
- Police Officer Antwan DeArvis Toney, Gwinnett County Police Department, GA
- Investigator Farrah Turner, Florence County Sheriff's Office, SC
- Sergeant Ronald Lee Helus, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, CA

#### **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 - Absent  
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 James Marker made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No.20348 – 20589 \$851,782.82 (Eight hundred fifty-one thousand, seven hundred eighty-two dollars and eighty-two 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. There will be a Town Council Meeting on Tuesday November 20, 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 November 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. A study session will take place before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

##### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that leaf pick up is ongoing and asked that residents leave at least 40 feet of access to leaves that need to be vacuumed.
- Police – Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Town of Griffith was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in "Indiana's 20 Safest Cities of 2018" according to SafeWise.com. Police Chief Greg Mance thanked the Griffith Police Officers, the Town Council and the citizens of Griffith for all of their efforts in reducing violent crimes within the Town.
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report
- **PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:** Calumet Township Secession update: Representatives from North and St. John Township were present. Doug Walker, attorney for North Township. Jean Shepherd, current St. John Township Trustee; Cathy LaRue, incoming St. John Township Trustee; Debbie Walters, St. John Township Assessor; Mike Aurelio, incoming St. John Township Board Member. Mr. Walker stated that he did not want to oversell North Township services, all of their services could be reviewed at NorthTownship.com. Kim Rusch asked about the "Dial a Ride" service offered by North. Mr. Walker stated that at present "Dial a Ride" is free. North is trying to find a permanent funding source but in the future a nominal fee may be charged to help support the

program. Kathy Rueskin asked the St. John representatives if they would take us. Ms Sheperd answered that the board would wait until it is approached. She was asked if a feasibility study would be done and she responded that the Board would make that decision. MS Shepherd was asked how much money was taken in and how much money was given out in assistance. She replied a lot of funds go to Fire Protection for unincorporated areas and staffing also has a large impact on funds. She stated that St. John Township does a very thorough investigation on any request for assistance funds to insure that the request is valid. A resident asked how long it would take to do an impact study and would we still meet the 12/31/18 deadline. Council President Ryfa said it took about 2 weeks for Reedy to complete their study. MS Shepherd said that she did not know if the board members would accept the study or if they would want their own done. Another resident asked if the current board was going to make a decision or will it be up to the newly elected board. MS Shepherd said that it depends on when the Township is approached. Another resident asked if we were offering the same incentives to both Townships. Council President Ryfa stated that we are making the same offer to both. Kathy Rueskin asked what would happen if both Townships rejected our offer. Council President Ryfa stated that the way the current law is written we would have to stay in Calumet Township, however he has had a conversation with State Senator Rick Niemeyer earlier this evening and he stated he (Niemeyer) would be open to a discussion about the Town providing the Township benefits. Sue Katona asked if Griffith properties would be reassessed by the new Township. Debbie Walters, St. John Assessor, answered that she would look at what was provided by Calumet Township and look at each property to verify the information on each property and then make a decision on whether or not to reassess. North Township uses the Lake County Assessor. Eric Reedy of Reedy Financial Group presented a summary of the tax impact of the two Townships and the impact of a bond that the Griffith Schools will be taking this year. (Analysis is attached)  
 Golf Course: No Report  
 Interceptor Project: No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-37, an ordinance amending Town Code 74-301 entitled "Parking Prohibited at all Times", seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-38, a resolution to void Resolution 2018-31, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-39, a resolution to reduce appropriations, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-40, a resolution to reduce Parks & Recreation appropriations, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- d. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-41, a resolution to discontinue the use of an appropriation and establish a new appropriation, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- e. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-42, a resolution for additional appropriations, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- f. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact from the Griffith Plan Commission on the petition of Griffith BTS Retail, LLC (Griffith Dollar General), located between Dwiggins and Colfax, Griffith, Indiana to establish zoning as B-3, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.


- g. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve and allow the Town Council President to sign Change Order #3 from SAK for the CIPP Interceptor Project in the amount of \$19,047.80, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed
- h. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve and to allow the Town Council President to sign an agreement with Barnes & Thornburg LLP as the Town of Griffith "State Legislative Relations Counsel", seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- i. Council Member Tony Hobson did a first reading of Ordinance 2018-43, an ordinance establishing a "Special Event Non-Reverting Fund," and all matters related thereto.
- j. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-46, a resolution by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith requesting to join St. John Township, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Council Member Tony Hobson pointed out that this is as a result of the overwhelming response by the citizens of Griffith to join St. John Township; this sentiment was also stated by Council Members Lawrence Ballah, James Marker and Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. This resolution was immediately signed by all Council Members and attested by the Clerk Treasurer; Council Member Tony Hobson then presented the signed resolution to Jean Shepherd, St. John Township Trustee.
- k. Council Member James Marker made a motion to defer approval of Resolution 2018-47 until the Council Meeting on November 20, 2018, this is a resolution by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith requesting to join North Township, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Marylyn Glinski asked why a citation was issued to a painter she had hired, his work trailer was parked in her driveway and was clearly marked with his business name. She also claimed that her front door was open and whomever issued it could have knocked on her door and explained the situation. Police Chief Greg Mance said that he would look into it. He also advised her that it was not a citation but was a Code Notification Form issued by Code Enforcement. She also complained about a black pick-up truck that frequently speeds through the subdivision. Chief Mance said he would look into this also. Another resident asked how long it will take for St. John Township to make a decision. MS Shepherd responded that she does not know. It will depend on the Township Board.


**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.**

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

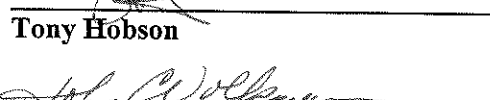
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
James Marker

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
Tony Hobson

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann – Clerk Treasurer