

December 4, 2018

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 4, 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:

- **Police Officer David Romrell, South Salt Lake Police Department, UT**
- **Deputy Sheriff Antonio Hinostroza, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Dept., CA**
- **Deputy U.S. Marshall Chase S. White, U.S Department of Justice, US**

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
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No. 20713 – 20855 \$796,256.43 (Seven hundred ninety-six thousand, two hundred fifty-six dollars and forty-three 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, December 18, 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, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. A study session will take place before the meeting at 5:45 p.m.
3. There will not be a Town Council Study Session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that leaf pick up is finished for the year, however, they will continue to pick up leaves for the rest of this week because of recent poor weather.
- Police – Chief of Police Greg Mance reported that the Police Department has exceeded their goal to raise \$5000.00 for St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital.
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report
- **PENDING ITEMS:**

TOWNSHIP ISSUES: Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa and Council Members James Marker and Tony Hobson attended a meeting with North Township members. They reported that the meeting was very productive and that North Township was very open minded. Rick Ryfa stated that Griffith is hoping to have a decision by the end of the year. He also stated that legislation is being prepared that would allow the Town to develop its own township.

Golf Course: No Report

Interceptor Project: There will be a progress meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-48, an ordinance of the Town of Griffith approving the issuance of bonds of the Town of Griffith Park District, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor, none opposed.
- b. Council Member James Marker made a motion to continue Ordinance 2018-49, an ordinance amending Town Code Section 74-175 entitled "Parking and Storage of RVs, Motor Homes, Boats, Boat Trailers, Recreational Equipment and Trailers Generally" until a future date to be determined, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor, none opposed.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson did a first reading of Ordinance 2018-50, an ordinance amending Town Code Section 62-80 entitled "placement" of containers for the deposit of garbage or rubbish. This was a second first reading of this ordinance due to significant changes made after its' first reading on November 20, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-51, a resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member James Marker did a first reading of Ordinance 2018-52, Salary Ordinance for 2019.
- c. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann to sign a License Agreement with NIPSCO, seconded by Council Member Town Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kathy Rueskin asked if a front porch was considered part of the main structure. Chief Mance replied that the front of the house, not the porch was considered the front of the structure.

Al Bjorec asked if there was an ordinance that addressed "air bnb" rentals. Coucil President Ryfa responded that there was not but it is something the Council may look into in the future.

Kathy Kepchar asked about the comments made by Hammon Mayor McDermott that he will "do everything in my power to keep Griffith out of North Township" and that Trustee Frank Mrvan seemed to be backtracking on the request. Council President Ryfa responded with "Lake County Politics". He also stated that the Town has presented a very strong position as to why it should be accepted into North Township. Council Member Marker added that North Township seemed to be very open minded and just needed a few more details.


George Smolka stated that for health reasons he could not always put his trash containers back where they belong in the time allotted in the ordinance. He was advised to call Public Works should this happen.


Kathy Rueskin and George Smolka asked about large items left for pickup. They were advised to call Public Works and they will make sure the items are picked up.

Marilyn Glinski asked why there were still signs posted about homes being available in the Trail Creek subdivision. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott said he would look into the matter.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 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