

**November 15, 2016**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 15, 2016 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members of the Webelos 2 scouts from Pack 525 lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the Meeting.

The names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty were read by Council Member James Marker:

Police Officer Justin Scott Martin, Urbandale Police Department, IA  
Sergeant Anthony David Beminio, Des Moines Police Department, IA  
Sergeant Paul Tuozzolo, New York City Police Department, NY  
Sergeant Patrick Sondron, Peach County Sheriff's Office, GA  
Police Officer Cody Brotherson, West Valley City Police Department, UT  
Police Officer Darrin Reed, Show Low Police Department, AZ  
Deputy Sheriff Daryl Smallwood, Peach County Sheriff's Office, GA  
Police Officer Scot Leslie Bashioum, Canonsburg Borough Police Department, PA  
Deputy Sheriff Dennis Wallace, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, CA

**ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Larry Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson-Absent  
Patricia Schaadt

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

John Volkmann - Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance - Police Chief  
Steve McDermott - Building Commissioner  
Brent Torrenga - Attorney for the Town  
Rick Konopasek-Director Public Works  
Roy Schoon - Fire Chief

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to adopt the minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 9480 - 9733 in the amount of \$841,520.17 (Eight Hundred Forty-One Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Dollars and Seventeen Cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Patricia Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member James Marker. MOTION CARRIED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 6:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will be a study session Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Town Hall.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. The Griffith Historical Society has presented a request for funds.
2. The Town of Griffith received a check from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission in the amount of \$340,000.00 as a partial reimbursement for the Arbogast Bridge Project. This will be deposited in the Storm Fund.

**REPORTS:**

1. NIRPC - No Report
2. Public Works - Rick Konopasek advised that the leaf crews sometimes get ahead of schedule, if they do they will move on to the next section that day and double back to the scheduled area the next day. He also advised that homeowners should not park their vehicles in such a way that prohibits the leaf truck access to the leaves. The leaf truck needs at least 40 feet to access properly. Rick also advised that the bridge over Turkey Creek could be opened as early as sometime Monday, November 21, 2016.
3. Police - No Report
4. Fire - No Report
5. Economic Development - No Report

6. Pending Items

- a. Hammond Sanitary District/Water Treatment – Council Member Larry Ballah stated that the Town has received a Binding Letter of Intent & Settlement Agreement Concerning Sewage Collection and Treatment Agreement Fees and LTCP/CSO Capitol Cost between the Town of Griffith and the Sanitary District of the City of Hammond. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept Resolution 2016-55, a resolution authorizing the Council President to execute a binding letter of intent and settlement agreement with the Hammond Sanitary District concerning sewage collection and treatment fees and LTCP/CSO Capitol cost. Seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Calumet Township/Secession Vote December 20, 2016 – Council President Rick Ryfa advised that due to the pending lawsuit by Calumet Township Trustee Kimberly Robinson there may be a delay in the secession vote. He also stated that the Town will proceed as soon as possible with the election pending the outcome of the lawsuit.
- c. Griffith Park Plaza – Council President Rick Ryfa stated that we are still proceeding with the project.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Community Crossings Grant: Council Member James Marker made a motion to award the bid for the Community Crossings Grant to Walsh & Kelly for their bid of \$1.3 million. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that the Community Crossings Grant is a State sponsored grant where the State of Indiana will match up to 50% of the total project expenditure of up to \$1.6 million. Motion Carried.
- b. Ordinance 2016-48: An ordinance limiting parking on both sides of Lafayette St. south of Main. A motion was made by Council Member Patricia Schaadt to pass Ordinance 2016-48. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried
- c. Ordinance 2016-50: An ordinance amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article III Sewer Service Division I. Section 78 -96 – Definitions, by the addition of language to the definition of “Commercial Users” and amending Section 78 – 107 – Wastewater Sampling by the additions of subsections a., b., c., and d. A motion to continue this Ordinance until December 6, 2016 was made by Council Member Larry Ballah and seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ordinance 2016-54: An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, authorizing the issuance of its “Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2016 (Calumet College of St. Joseph Project) in one or more series and approving and authorizing other actions in respect thereto was read by Council Member James Marker. This was a first reading of Ordinance 2016-54.
- b. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek discussed a project for the purchase of two parcels of land for the right of way for the Oak Savannah/Erie Lackawanna Trail Project. One parcel is owned by American Chemical and valued at \$5,050.00; the other parcel is owned by a private individual and is valued at \$1,350.00. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah and seconded by Council Member Patricia Schaadt to authorize Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the agreement to purchase these two parcels of land. Motion Carried.
- c. A motion was made by Council Member Patricia Schaadt and seconded by Council Member James Marker to approve a recommendation from the Griffith Safety Board to allow the purchase of a new VEST vehicle.

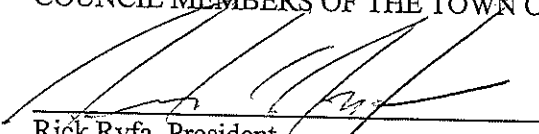
- d. Town Attorney representative Brent Torrenga presented a proposed advertisement and bid package for the sale of the old animal shelter site located at 123 – 127 N. Wood St., Griffith, IN. The minimum bid would have to be \$156,500.00. The property would have to be advertised for at least two weeks and the bidding would be open for 45 days. Council Member Patricia Schaadt made a motion to set the time frame for accepting bids at 45 days; seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- a. Jackie & Ken Braun, 224 Minter, Griffith, IN. They expressed concern over a letter received from Code Enforcement indicating that they could be fined as much as \$2,500.00 if improvements, including painting the exterior of a building they own at 110 S. Broad are not completed in a timely manner. They indicated that they have already made extensive improvements to the building and are continuing to do so and were concerned as to the timing of the letter and its ramifications. They were assured by Council President Rick Ryfa and Police Chief Greg Mance that the Town would take into consideration the fact that they are continuing to make improvements to the building and that there would not be any fines as long as progress was being made.
- b. Marilyn Glinski, 1187 Sawgrass, Griffith, IN expressed concern over a sign at Ave. H and Arbogast "Lots for Sale". She said the lots were zoned R3 and that when she called the phone number listed on the sign the person who answered indicated that they would be willing to sell to someone who would put up multi-family housing including Section 8 tenants. Ms Glinski indicated that if multi-family dwellings were constructed in the area she would have to seriously consider moving out of Griffith. Council President Rick Ryfa indicated that he was unaware of the "For Sale" sign but that the Town would investigate.

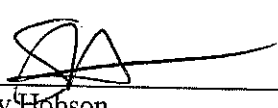
**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m.**

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

  
Rick Ryfa, President


  
Patricia Schaadt

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Larry Ballah

Attest:

  
John C. Volkmann  
Clerk-Treasurer

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 55**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH  
AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE A BINDING LETTER OF  
INTENT AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE HAMMOND SANITARY  
DISTRICT CONCERNING SEWAGE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FEES AND  
LTCP/CSO CAPITAL COSTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Griffith has determined that it is in the best interests of its citizens to enter into a long-term settlement of all outstanding issues between the Town of Griffith and the Hammond Sanitary District; and

**WHEREAS**, a binding Letter of Intent and Settlement Agreement has been negotiated between the Town of Griffith and the Hammond Sanitary District concerning sewage and treatment fees and long-term capital control plan/combined sewer overflows capital costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town Council President is hereby authorized to execute a binding Letter of Intent and Settlement Agreement with the Hammond Sanitary District.

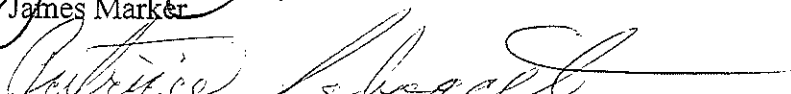
**SO RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED**, by the Griffith Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

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


  
Rick Ryfa

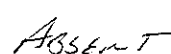
  
Lawrence Ballah

  
James Marker

  
Patricia Schaadt

Attest:

  
John C. Volkmann  
Clerk-Treasurer

  
Tony Hobson

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-48

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74-TRAFFIC & VEHICLES,  
ARTICLE VIII TRAFFIC SCHEDULES, SECTION 74-302  
LIMITED PARKING ON CERTAIN STREETS (b)

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-1-3 et seq. authorizes the Town to adopt traffic and parking regulations within the Town of Griffith; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, deems it to be in the best interest of the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Griffith that Chapter 74 - Traffic & Vehicles, Article VIII, Traffic Schedules, Section 74-302, Limited Parking on Certain Streets (b), be amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, that Chapter 74 - Traffic & Vehicles, Article VIII, Traffic Schedules, Section 74-302, Limited Parking on Certain Streets (b), be amended by the addition of the following:

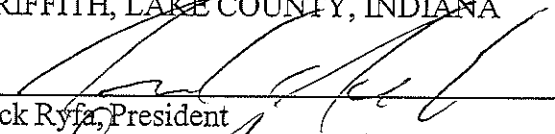
Both sides of South Lafayette Avenue from the alley, which is approximately 155 feet south of Main Street, and continuing south to the north side of Avenue A shall be reserved for parking only by the residents of the 100 block of South Lafayette Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any and all such ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Town of Griffith that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage and posting in accordance with IC 36-5-2-10.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council for the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

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

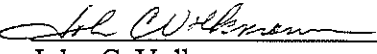
  
Rick Ryfa, President

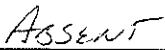
  
James Marker

  
Larry Ballah

  
Patricia Schaad

Attest:

  
John C. Volkmann  
Clerk-Treasurer

  
Tony Hobson