

December 19, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 19, 2017 meeting to order at 7:03pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member James Marker read the names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty:
NONE

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
Robert Schwerd – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief - Absent
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins.
Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 15414 – 15671, \$988,922.74 (Nine hundred and eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred and twenty-two dollars and seventy-four cents) Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 6:55pm. A Study Session will follow if necessary.
2. There will not be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 26, 2017.
3. Council Member Lawrence Ballah read and announcement that the Town is accepting letters of interest for the various Town Boards and Commissions. The letters must state the political affiliation of the individual and should be sent to the Clerk Treasurer's office. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that there is an opening on the Plan Commission that needs to be filled quickly.
4. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the Town Attorney Robert Schwerd is retiring. He thanked him for his many years of dedicated and loyal service to the Town of Griffith.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Council President Rick Ryfa gave an update on the Mansards Apartments. The Mansards were sold over a year ago and have been renamed the Park West Apartments. Chief Mance gave an update on the crime statistics for the complex, he stated that overall crime is down 39% there. Chief Mance introduced Milan Lukajic, General Manager of the complex. Together they gave an update on some of the improvements that have been made including new paint and appliances. Chief Mance praised Milan and the owners of Park West for all of the positive improvement they have made.

REPORTS:

Public Works - Public Works Director Rick Konopasek announced that leaf pick up by the vac-truck has been completed for the year. Leaves that are bagged will be picked up through the end of this week.
Police – Police Chief Greg Mance announced that overall crime in Town is down 18% for the year.
Fire – No Report

Finance - No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

TOWNSHIP ISSUES:

- a. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update. We have collected over 700 signatures to date and will continue to collect signatures until we have the appropriate amount.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member James Marker read Salary Ordinance 2017-57. Full-time Town employees will receive a 2% increase in 2018, there will be no change in part-time employee wages. He made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-57 as presented, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:


- a. Council President Rick Ryfa introduced an agreement with Comcast for a variety of services that they provide. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the Comcast agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Justine Biesczat expressed concern over the length of time it took for Animal Control to respond to a call. She said it took 1 ½ hours to respond on a call about a wandering dog in her neighborhood. She also said it took a long time to respond to a call about a raccoon in her neighborhood. Chief Mance explained that the Animal Control Warden is frequently on the road and does not get the calls until she returns to the Animal Control Facility. He advised that it is best to call 911 and the dispatcher can then contact the appropriate personnel to deal with the situation.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.


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


Rick Ryfa – President


Larry Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: John C. Volkmann
Clerk Treasurer