

JANUARY 15, 2019

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 15, 2019 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member Melissa Robbins read the names of the Police Officers killed in the line of duty:

- Police Officer Clayton Joel Townsend, Salt River Police Department, TR (Tribal Police)
- Police Officer Natalie Becky Corona, Davis Police Department, CA
- Trooper Christopher Lambert, Illinois State Police, IL
- Sergeant Wytasha Carter, Birmingham Police Department, AL

ROLL CALL:

James Marker - Absent
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 4 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No. 21334 – 21457, \$617,498.50 (Six hundred seventeen thousand, four hundred ninety-eight dollars and fifty cents). Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a study session before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a study session before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
3. There will be a Town Council Study Session on January 22, 2019 after the Redevelopment Commission meeting.
4. There will be an Economic Development Commission meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Griffith Town Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek asked residents to remove their vehicles from the streets in the event of snowfall this weekend so that the streets can be plowed effectively.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report
- **PENDING ITEMS:**

TOWNSHIP ISSUES: Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update: The Town is still lobbying to allow Griffith to provide Township services to its' residents. He also stated that the tax rates for Griffith have been declining for the last four years. He added that Griffith property tax collection rate is at 98% while Gary is at 39%.

Golf Course: The Town is still working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on this issue.

Interceptor Project: Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that the manhole portion of the project should be completed by Friday of this week and the the bypass pumping can be removed at that time. He also added that the project is still on time and

under budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None
BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

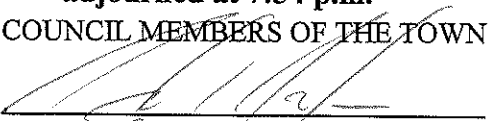
- a. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Clerk Treasurer to write-off old checks as required by the State Board of Accounts, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to reappoint the members of the Town Council to the following boards: Board of Public Works, Water Board and Finance Committee, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed. Council President Rick Ryfa added that the first meeting for these Boards will be on February 5, 2019 during the regular Town Council Meeting.

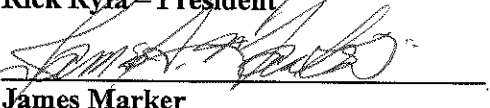
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Kathy Rueskin stated that the drains at Lake and Glenwood are sinking and the asphalt around them is eroding. Public Works will look into the situation.
- b. Tim Diamond asked if tickets and fines would be issued to individuals who do not move their vehicles during snow events. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the Town would rather not have to issue tickets and fines, but would prefer if residents would move the vehicles so that the plows could remove snow effectively.
- c. George Smolka expressed concern that his neighbor has left his car parked in front of his house (neighbors house) for over three months and nothing is being done about it. Mr. Smolka also stated that during the last snow fall his neighbor left his car parked on the street and this prohibited the snow plows from plowing the street in front of Mr. Smolka's house. When his neighbor finally moved his car the plows only plowed in front of the neighbors' house and not Mr. Smolkas'. Mr. Smolka also expressed concern over the message on the Town phones when Town Hall is closed, he said the message indicates that Public Works is open at 8:00 a.m. but when he called between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. he was automatically switched to the Police Department. Mr. Smolka was advised that this situation would be looked into.
- d. Vornell Parker complained that he is being harassed by certain members of the Griffith Police Department. Mr. Parker stated that they are harassing him and trying to goad him into committing a crime. Town Attorney Sheri Bradtke McNeil advised that there is a form available at the Police Department which is used to file a complaint. Mr. Parker said that he was not comfortable reporting to the Police and was lodging his complaint with the Town Council. Town Council President Rick Ryfa stated that the matter would be investigated.
- e. Kathy Rueskin asked what is happening with the Dollar Store on Main St. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott stated that the site has been rezoned to the proper zoning and the developer is working on the plans that will be required for further development.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 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