

**FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 5, 2019 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 Sean Paul Tudor, Mobile Police Department, AL
- Detective William Brewer, Clermont County Sheriff's Office, OH
- Border Patrol Agent Donna Doss, United States Border Patrol, US
- Trooper Lucas B. Dowell, Virginia State Police, VA

**ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
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  
Keith Martin – Police Commander

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 21458 – 21689, \$2,475,545.17 (Two million, four hundred seventy-five thousand, five hundred forty-five dollars and seventeen 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, February 19, 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, February 26, 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 February 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the request of the Chamber of Commerce to hang banners for their Annual Easter Bunny Breakfast on April 13, 2019, the banners will be hung two weeks before the event, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive and refund a fee of \$160.00 paid by Lake Area Recovery Club, a sobriety club, for their Annual Summer Picnic Fundraiser, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**REPORTS:**

- Public Works – No Report
- 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 stated that House Bill 1177 to give Griffith two years, until November 2020, to transfer township was approved by the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee. The legislation now goes to the full House.

Golf Course: No Report

Interceptor Project: Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that the project is

close to completion, the work is dependent on weather conditions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Cathy Kapchak (sp?) asked if it was still possible to form our own Township. Council President Rick Ryfa replied that it was still possible but we have to wait and see what happens with the current legislation that is under consideration.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

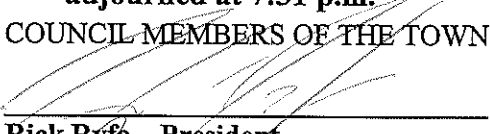
- a. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-01, a resolution to support the partnership with United Way to help assist Griffith residents, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. Erin Meisner and Lisa Daugherty of Lake Area United Way gave a brief presentation on what is available from the United Way. Additional information can be found on the Town of Griffith Website and at Griffith Town Hall.
- b. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to reaffirm an agreement with Wessler Engineering for On-Call Wastewater Engineering Services, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Task Order Number 2 with Wessler Engineering for Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Investigations, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. Joseph Bartos of Wessler Engineering gave a brief description of the work to be performed under Task Order Number 2.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Kathy Rueskin asked why it matters if storm water flows into the sanitation system. Council President Rick Ryfa explained that there are two different systems. Storm water can be pumped into the Little Calumet River system but sanitary cannot. Sanitary must be routed to Hammond for treatment. The Town has to ensure that the two systems are separate and do not cross contaminate. The EPA will not allow any sanitary discharge into the Little Calumet River system.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.**

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