

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 19, 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 Matthew Rittner, Milwaukee Police Department, WI
- Agent Alfred Zanyet-Perez, Puerto Rico Police Department, PR

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner-Absent
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 February 5, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried 4 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No. 21690-21881, \$1,113,673.85 (One million, one hundred thirteen thousand, six hundred seventy-three dollars and eighty-five cents). Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next will be a Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 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, 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 26, 2019 after the Redevelopment Commission meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow the Diamond Divas softball club to hang photo banners of the Griffith HS softball players from the end of March thru June, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 4 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. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Golf Course: No Report

Interceptor Project: Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek advised that the project is close to completion, there is some clean-up work that still needs to be accomplished.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

John Kaden: Expressed concern over the proposed change in the ordinance about RVs, trailers etc. He is concerned that the time limit would be changed from 72 hours to 48 hours. He suggested that violaters of the current ordinance be cited instead of changing the ordinance. He also asked how a new ordinance would be enforced. He stated that he believes the ordinance change is directed at him personally.

Greg Bower – a representative of the Bremerton Trailer Park is here to answer any questions people may have.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to continue the first reading of Ordinance 2019-02 – Placement of Garbage, Rubbish or Recycle containers to a later date, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member James Marker made a motion to continue the first reading of Ordinance 2019-03 – RV parking and storage to a later date, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.
3. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Clerk Treasurer to advise the Lake County Board of Elections to cancel the Primary Election scheduled for May due to the fact that all those running in the Primary, both Democrats and Republicans, are running unopposed, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.
4. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to allow the Town Council President to send a letter to IDEM and/or any other agency that may be required that the Town of Griffith will accept the extending of a sewer line to the Bremerton Trailer Park, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Council President Rick Ryfa commented that Bremerton will have to meet all of the terms and conditions that a Town approved engineering firm will outline as being necessary, such as a monitoring pit, metered outflow and anything else that is deemed necessary. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.
5. Council Member James Marker made a motion to accept a proposal from Robert Thomson to do a Financial Analysis to determine the financial feasibility of the Town of Griffith purchasing the Griffith/Merrillville Airport, the cost of the analysis not to exceed \$5,250.00 plus expenses, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Kaden (sp?) asked why would North or St. John want Griffith? Council President Rick Ryfa replied that because of the upcoming circuit breaker effect Griffith would provide revenue that would help offset some of the circuit breaker impact. He also stated that Calumet Township would be holding a meeting at Griffith Town Hall on March 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Tonya Biel asked if there are towns that do not belong to a Township. Council President replied that there are no towns that do not belong to a Township.

Jim Masters asked if there were plans to repave the bike trail in Griffith, he said that there a lot of cracks in the trail and this makes it uncomfortable to ride. Council President said the Town would look into who is responsible for each section of the trail and look into the possibility of repaving the Griffith portion.

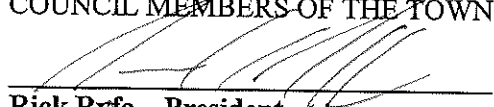
Beth (Branch Manager Griffith Library) said thank you to the Griffith Police Department for their response to a call of an unresponsive person in the parking lot, the officers were very professional in dealing with this matter.

Tim Diamond asked how much did St. John Township pay out in poor relief last year. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that he was not sure how much they paid out but that they did have a poor relief fund in their budget.

Unidentified male asked where we were with replacing the batteries on the water meters and what would we be using as an average for the summer sprinkling credit since there are many meters with failed batteries. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that there are approximately 1,100 meters that still need battery replacements and that we would use 2017 figures for the sprinkling credit.


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 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