

**MARCH 5, 2019**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 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 Nicholas Galinger, Chattanooga Police Department, TN
- Sergeant Steve Hinkle, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, TN

**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-Absent  
Kieth Martin – Police Commander

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 21882 – 22039, \$812,947.36 (Eight hundred twelve thousand, nine hundred forty-seven dollars and thirty-six 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. The next will be a Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 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 study session on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve a request from the Griffith Youth Baseball to have an Opening Day Parade on May 4, 2019 from the Griffith YMCA on Broad St. to the Griffith Youth Baseball fields on Pine St., seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve a request from the Gary Shakespeare Company to present Othello on Sunday, August 11, 2019 in Central Park at 7:00 p.m., admission is free, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- c. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott announced that there will be a Plan Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., the purpose of the meeting is the Public Hearing for the Restaurant Depot project.

**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 gave the following update: Calumet Township held a meeting on March 4, 2019 in Griffith Town Hall, Gary has many issues that must be addressed but a better Gary will make for a better Griffith. Griffith is still going forward with legislation to extend the time period for acceptance by another Township.  
Golf Course: No Report

Interceptor Project: Project is almost finished.  
**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-04, a resolution transferring monies, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-05, a resolution to transfer appropriations, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
3. Council President Rick Ryfa outlined some of the difficulties the Town is having with failing water meters. There are currently about 1,200 water meters that have batteries that have failed, this results in the meters not being able to transmit to the drive-by meter reader. These meters must be read manually or the bills will be estimated. This usually results in a bill adjustment when the meter is repaired. This is very inconvenient for our customers. The meter supplier has said they will supply the new meters and the Town will schedule their replacement.
4. Council Member Lawrence Ballah read the BZA Findings of Fact for Central States Tower on the placement of a cell tower at Wiggs St. and Pine St., he made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 4 in favor none opposed, 1 abstention (Council Member James Marker).
5. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the appointment of Theresa Rivas to the BZA, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
6. Council President Rick Ryfa stated that because of scheduling conflicts Council Member Tony Hobson must resign from the Town Plan Commission, he made a motion to appoint Council Member James Marker to the Plan Commission, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
7. Council President Rick Ryfa announce that the Town will be releasing an RFP for clean fill for the Golf Course. Attorneys and engineers are developing the details for the RFP and it should be completed in the next 2 to 4 weeks. Approximately 8 feet of fill is needed to make the area buildable. The RFP will stipulate that whomever it is awarded to will have to manage the site and ensure that the fill is to specification.


**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- a. Dan Perez from Imagine Griffith asked the Council to approve a request to hang banners on Broad St. for an Arts Initiative starting May 15, 2019. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow Imagine Griffith to put up banners pending content approval by the Town Council for two (2) weeks starting May 15, 2019, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that more than two weeks might be necessary. Dan Perez said they would like at least two months. Council Member James Marker amended his motion to grant permission to Imagine Griffith to put up banners on Broad St. pending content approval by the Town Council for forty-five (45) days, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that this may be something that we would want to leave up all summer, depending on the content and not put a time limitation on it. Council Member James Marker again amended his motion to allow the banners to be hung starting May 15, 2019 for an indeterminate amount of time pending content approval by the Town Council, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

- b. Marilyn Glinski asked if anything could be done to improve the condition of the rail crossings at Broad St. and at Colfax. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that it would be looked into.


**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.**

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

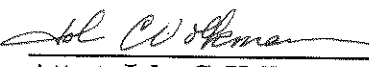
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
James Marker

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
Tony Hobson

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann – Clerk Treasurer