

MAY 7, 2019

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 7, 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 Kyle Olinger, Montgomery County Police Department, MD
- K9 Officer Jordan Harris Sheldon, Mooresville Police Department, NC
- Police Officer Robert McKeithen, Biloxi Police Department, MS

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
Keith Martin – Police Commander

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins.

Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No 22646 – 22928 \$1,851,849.16 (One million, eight hundred fifty-one thousand, eight hundred forty-nine dollars and sixteen 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 Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 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, May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
3. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a study session before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive the park rental fees for an event sponsored by Better Roads Recovery Ministry at South Park on Monday, May 27, 2019, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve a request by the Imagine Griffith Community Public Arts Committee to hang banners on the light poles on Broad St., seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
3. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve a request by Park Full of Art to hang banners in various locations throughout Town, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
4. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve a request by Park Full of Art for advertising assistance in the amount of \$500.00 (Five hundred dollars and zero cents), seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. 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 gave the following update: The Governor has signed the bill that allows Griffith another year to be accepted by another Township.

Golf Course: The RFP for fill should be ready soon.

Interceptor Project: The project is about 99% complete, there are some issues to be completed this spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-02, an ordinance amending Town Code Section 62-80 entitled "Placement", seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson did a first reading of Ordinance 2019-12, Salary Ordinance. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. A voice vote was taken on this motion: Council Member James Marker: in favor; Council Member Lawrence Ballah: in favor; Council President Rick Ryfa: in favor; Council Member Melissa Robbins: in favor; Council Member Tony Hobson: in favor. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Salary Ordinance 2019-12, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Change Order Number 6 from SAK, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
3. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve a Continuing Services Agreement with Bakertilly, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
4. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve an agreement for engineering services with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
5. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve a Solicitation For Bids for the 2019 CCMG Road Resurfacing Project, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:


Jackie Braun asked about the plans for the greenspace across the street from the Billiard hall on Broad St. She was advised that the Redevelopment Commission is in negotiations with the individuals who placed a bid on the property when it was for sale on a public offering.

Kathy Rueskin asked if there was a "Yield" sign for pedestrians at the rail crossing near the train depot. She was advised that there is a crosswalk there.

Tim Diamond asked if the 2019 Community Crossings Grant money could be used for sidewalks in Central Park. He was advised that the Community Crossing Grant money could only be used for sidewalks if the sidewalk was directly adjacent to the paving project. Community Crossings Grant money is specifically for road paving projects. He was also advised that the Town is looking at various revenue sources for future sidewalk improvement projects.


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 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