

AUGUST 6, 2019

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the August 6, 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:

- Sergeant Michael Stephen, Stone County Sheriff's Office, AR
- Police Officer Juan Jose Diaz, Los Angeles Police Department, CA
- Correctional Officer Pedro J. Rodriguez-Mateo, Puerto Rico Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, PR

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
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 July 16, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins.

Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No 24085 – 24339 \$2,012,858.40 (Two million, twelve thousand, eight hundred fifty-eight dollars and forty 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, August 20, 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 Town Council study session on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
3. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a study session before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4. There will be a Town Council Study Session after the Redevelopment Commission meeting on July 23, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow Scout Troop 264 to hang banners for their upcoming annual craft festival for 14 (fourteen) days, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
2. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to make a donation of \$500.00 (Five hundred dollars and zero cents) from the Tourism Fund (Fund 220) to the Boy Scouts, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
3. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow the Griffith Police Department to host its' annual "Public Safety and Community Day" at Central Park on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a rain day of Sunday, August 25, 2019 should it be needed, and to prohibit parking on both sides of Oak St. between Broad St. and Griffith Blvd. from the night of August 23, 2019 until the event ends, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
4. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow St. Mary Church to hang banners for their upcoming Western Days from August 10, 2019 thru August 19, 2019, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that the repaving of Broad St. from 45th Ave. to Lake St. will begin the week of August 19, 2019, weather permitting.
- 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 looking for a home and will continue to search in the upcoming months.

Golf Course: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update: The Town is in preparations to make a public offering on the Golf Course.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

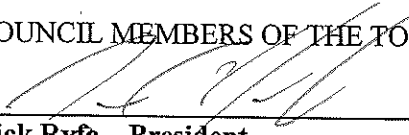
NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to accept and to allow the Town Council President and Public Works Director to sign a task order to develop Town Construction Standards with Butler Fairman and Suefert, the cost of developing these Standards is not to exceed \$12,500.00 (Twelve thousand, five hundred dollars and zero cents), seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins opened the Public Hearing for the Vacation of Public way for the Town of Griffith Park Department at 7:10 p.m. There were no comments from the public either for or against the Vacation, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.
- c. Council Member Melissa Robbins read Ordinance 2019-19, Vacation of Public Way, Town of Griffith Park Department. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Clerk Treasurer John C. Volkmann conducted a roll call vote: 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 Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-19, Vacation of Public Way, Town of Griffith Park Department, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- d. Council Member Tony Hobson opened the Public Hearing for the Vacation of Public Way for John J. Houlihan for property that abuts 1001 W. Main St., Griffith, IN at 7:13 p.m. Council Member Tony Hobson read a letter from Buckeye Partners, L.P. objecting to the Vacation. (Letter attached to minutes). Jana Olthoff of Buckeye Partners, L.P. expressed the concerns of Buckeye about the Vacation. She asked for the decision on the vacation be deferred until Buckeye can obtain more detailed information on the Vacation. There were no more comments either for or against, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:17 p.m.
- e. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to defer a decision on Ordinance 2019-20 an Ordinance for the Vacation of Public Way for John J. Houlihan for property that abuts 1001 W. Main St. until a Town Council Meeting in October 2019 and to refer the Vacation to the Plan Commission for consideration before the Town Council renders a decision, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.


PUBLIC COMMENTS:none


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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

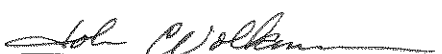

Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: John C. Volkmann – Clerk Treasurer