

**OCTOBER 1, 2019**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the October 1, 2019 meeting to order at 7:01 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:

- Captain Vincent Liverto, Jr., Mandeville Police Department, LA
- Deputy Sheriff Sandeep Dhaliwal, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX
- Police Officer Brian Mulkeen, New York City Police Department, NY

**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 September 17, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins.  
Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No 25118 – 25282, \$1,245,509.90 (One million, two hundred forty-five thousand, five hundred nine dollars and ninety 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, October 8, 2019 at 6:15 p.m., this is the 2020 Budget Public Hearing.
2. There will be a Town Council meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 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.
3. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Town Council study session after the Redevelopment Commission meeting.
4. The 2020 Budget Adoption meeting will be on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. in Town Hall.

**COMMUNICATIONS: Council Member Melissa Robbins read the following communications.**

1. The Griffith Fire Department Fire Prevention open house will be Sunday, October 13, 2019 from noon to 4 p.m. at Central Station, 130 N. Lafayette St.
2. Household hazardous waste collection will take place at the Town of Griffith Public Works Facility, 134 S. Colfax on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Griffith Shred Fest will also take place at the same time and place. Residents are limited to four (4) boxes per vehicle.
3. Fire hydrant testing and flushing will begin on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 through Friday, November 1, 2019. During this time every hydrant North of Glen Park (45<sup>th</sup> Ave) will be tested and flushed also areas North of Elm St. and West of Cline Ave. will be tested and flushed. M.E. Simpson will notify residents via door hangers one day prior to testing.
4. The Griffith Oktoberfest will be in Central Park on Friday, October 4, 2019: 5pm – 11pm; Saturday, October 5: 2pm – 11pm; Sunday, October 6: 1pm – 9pm.

**REPORTS:**

- Public Works – Director of Public Works, Rick Konopasek reported that the Community Crossings paving project is almost complete, there is still some curb and corner work to be completed on Main St. and Lake St.

- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report

**PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:** Calumet Township Secession update: Council Member Lawrence Ballah reported that letters were sent to St. John and North Township trustees asking them to reconsider our petition to join their township.

Golf Course: No Report

2020 Budget: Public Hearing will be on October 8, 2019 at 6:15 pm and the Budget Adoption Meeting will be on October 21, 2019 at 7:15 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-20, an ordinance to approve the vacation of a public way for John J. Houlihan, 1001 W. Main St., seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-25, a resolution to approve the purchase of a new pickup truck for the Parks and Recreation Department, this replaces resolution 2019-24 because of a reduction in the interest rate for the loan, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

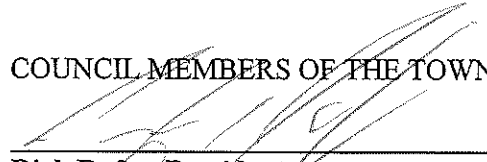
Jackie Braun expressed concerns about golf carts being allowed on Town streets. She asked if the golf carts would be required to have lights, turn signals, insurance and other safety features. Does the State allow golf carts. Will golf carts be allowed on Colfax. She also expressed concerns about driving golf carts on thru streets crossing streets where golf carts are not allowed. She was advised that no action would be taken on the ordinance until the end of October to allow the citizens to respond with concerns about the issue both for and against.

Marilyn Glinski expressed concerns about the condition of the rail crossings on Colfax near Oak Ridge Prairie. The crossings are in need of repair. She was advised that one crossing is owned by the railroad and the other is owned by the chemical company and that both entities would be contacted to see if there is a time line to repair these crossings.

Norman Beverage asked if anyone had any suggestions for an Eagle Scout Project for him. He was asked to provide his name, address and phone number and if anyone has an idea they would contact him.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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