

OCTOBER 15, 2019

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the October 15, 2019 meeting to order at 7:04 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 Thomas J. Bomba, Montgomery County Police Department, MD

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-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 October 1, 2019 and October 8, 2019 meetings as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Claims No 25283 – 255810 \$927,135.34. (Nine hundred twenty-seven thousand, one hundred thirty-five dollars and thirty-four 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 Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:15 p.m., this is the 2020 Budget Adoption Meeting.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Town Council study session after the Redevelopment Commission meeting if necessary.
3. The Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019 is cancelled due to elections.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that hydrant flushing north of 45th St. will begin soon and that smoke testing is about 85% complete. Also paving and concrete work on Main St. should be done soon and then the mill and overlay of Main St., Columbia and Lake Sts will begin.
- 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 the legislation is still being drafted and we are waiting to hear from North and/or St. John Township in regards to our joining either.

Golf Course: No Report

2020 Budget: Budget Adoption Meeting is Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:


- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign an agreement with the Law Office of Jonathen Petersen for services concerning real estate matters, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Griffith and Fraternal Order of Police, Griffith Lodge #161, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. The agreement is effective October 15, 2019 thru December 31, 2023.

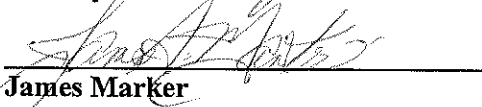
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Council President Rick Ryfa gave an update on the status of the replacement of the water meter batteries and the impact of the failing batteries. There are over 1200 meters that have battery issues and sometimes when the battery is replaced there is a catch-up on the water usage and some customers are experiencing large water bills. We are replacing 50 to 80 batteries a week and we ask customers to call in meter readings if they see an E on their water bill. The "E" means that the bill is estimated. He also advised that disputes would be handled on a case by case basis, that we would not shut off someone's water and we will not assess any late charges. But it would be very helpful if customers would phone in meter readings. He stated that the readings on the meters are accurate it is just the battery systems that transmits the data is malfunctioning. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek showed a sample meter and explained how it works and what is malfunctioning. The meter has an analog reading that keeps track of the water passing through the system. The meter is keeping accurate information as to how much water is passing through the meter. Mr. Ryfa also stated that depending on how long someone's reading has been estimated could result in a large bill once the new battery pack is installed and some customers will be responsible for the water usage.


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 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