

March 17, 2020

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 17, 2020 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 Brent Scrimshire
- Corporal James O'Connor
- Police Officer Christopher Walsh

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- 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 - Absent
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No 27391-27605 \$860,559.55 Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Indiana State Representative Chris Chyung was unable to attend.

REPORTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Griffith RDC Financial Update, Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to accept Reedy Financial Report, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

- Township: We are out of Calumet Township. We have until July 1st to negotiate with North Township and St. John Township, if unable to negotiate Griffith will move to North Township.
- Golf Course: No report
- Water billing issues: trying to resolve

COVID-19: Town Response: Please refer to the State and CDC guidelines. Our website has many resources listed. Restaurants are listed on our website and their policy for pick up or delivery. You can access through a link for Strack and Van Til's for insta cart. Any help please call our office at 219-924-7500.

Police Dept.: limited public access, call non emergency number 219-924-7503 to speak the records clerk.

Responding Calls: Call 911, non emergency 219-660-0000, please give as much information as possible when calling.

Animal shelter has suspended adoption, only essential people in the building.

Griffith PD is prepared for worse scenario.

Senior Center is closed.

Town Hall is closed; payments can be dropped off in the collection boxes located in front of Town Hall and in the back. Payments can also be taken over the phone with a credit card. New program coming soon for bill pay.

Park Dept: The Griffith Parks are open; please use discretion if using them.

Public Works: Public Works office and Garage are closed, suspension of water meter replacements. Workers will not be entering homes. No water shut offs during this time except for unoccupied homes or buildings. Workers are asked to stay home if sick.

Inquires about COVID-19 please direct to State Health Dept. or CDC.

Garbage pickup will continue, items must be in cans. Neighboring communities are sharing resources.

Building Dept.: Permits are on our website. Applications can be faxed, email, or placed in one of our water bill boxes. Payments can also be made over the phone thru the Clerk Treasurer's office at 219-924-7500. The building dept. can be reached by phone, 219-922-3091 or fax 219-924-3840.

Fire Dept.: Limited access. Essential personnel only.

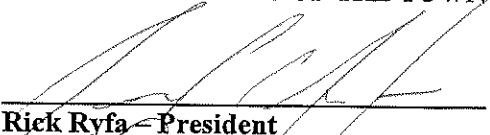
We are recording the meeting this eve. Possibly in the future we will record meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:


1. Tina Adams from Food Pantry Operation Care spoke about giving out food, offering drive thru pickup, trying to give 2 weeks supply of food.


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

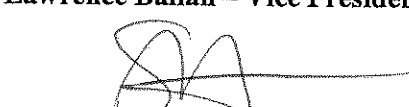
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA



Rick Ryfa - President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer