

August 18, 2020

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the August 18, 2020 meeting to order at 7:03 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:

- Trooper Caleb Starr

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
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 21, 2020 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No. (August 4, 2020) 29338-29487 in the amount of \$1,360,352.17 and Claims No (August 18, 2020) 29488-29742 in the amount of \$746,890.39 Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, 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:

REPORTS:

- Public Works – No Report
- Police – No Report
- Fire – Fire Chief Roy Schoon announced FEMA Fire Fighter Grant \$231,460.00.
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Status Hearing for AP Gas Station: Operating without a permit. Attorney Cantrell is requesting the Council to give his client a license. He has received several tickets for

operating without a license. Chief Mance spoke the investigation is still ongoing. Mr. McDermott has over seen the violations, he was notified on August 5, 2020 that AP Gas Station was operating, and Mr. McDermott gave him a warning on that day. Then gave citations on August 6 2020 and each day after. Mr. Awawda stated he had to open, he had a license in 2018, but did not receive notice his license was expired, in 2019 he stated he applied. Initial hearing there was no license. Attorney McNeil stated we are not here because you were operating without a license, if you had a license we would be here to revoke the license for illegal activity. She stated the issue is you are operating without a license. Two issues, illegal activity and operating without a license. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to make a recommendation to the Clerk Treasurer to deny the business license, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

2. Affirm five (5) year lease/purchase of new 6x4 Dump Truck with Plow and Salt spreader equipment. \$178,380.00 purchase cost. \$38,900.00 annual payment. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to purchase and finance and authorizes Clerk Treasurer Gina Smith sign documents seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Stop sign Ordinance- Wiggs and Columbia, An ordinance amending Town Code Section 74-293 entitled Four-Way stop street. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules to allow a roll call vote on this, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins; roll call was taken all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Handicap parking sign-Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to install Handicap sign at 424 N. Lafayette St. seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
3. Lease Agreements-Franklin Center- Due to the YMCA departure of the Franklin Center, there are vacancies, looking to review leases, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the new leases and the Council to affirm, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
4. Affirm N. Arbogast Ditch Dredging Contract with Grimmer Construction \$27,720.00, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow Rick Konopasek to sign the contract, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
5. BF&S Consulting Agreement: Update of Water Utility Emergency Response Compliance with State Statue. NTE \$8,000.00, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorize Council President Rick Ryfa and Rick Konopasek to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
6. Building Construction Standards- Council Member Larry Ballah stated this is information, going through cleaning up our standard guidelines.
7. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to instruct the attorneys to begin drafting an agreement with Bremerton Mobile Home Park, to reduce the system development fee for water and impact fee by 50%, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried. Council Member Melissa Robbins rescinded her motion until the next Town Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson.

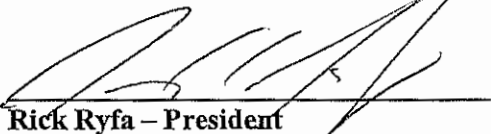
PUBLIC COMMENTS:


1. Bill Marvel, President of Lake County Recovery Program, asked if the YMCA is out of Franklin, Mr. McDermott stated he will be checking and will confirm with Mr. Marvel.

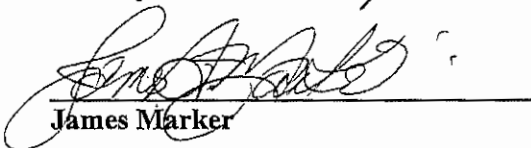
2. Tim Diamond asked about the Franklin Center, rooms being available for use. Council President Rick Ryfa stated it would be an option; we are in the process of who will take care of scheduling. Council Member Tony Hobson commented on the long term use of the Franklin Center, the Town should not be a lease holder, not in the best interest to be municipal owned. Options are open for the future of the Franklin Center.
3. Kim Rusch spoke about her 6 year old grandson wanted to do something special for our Police Department, they presented Koozies with badge numbers to each officer. For other departments, she put initials on the Koozies: Town Hall, Public Works, Building Dept., Vest, and Town Council she is working on completing the Fire Dept. (something special for their 100 year anniversary) and waiting to hear back from the Park Dept. with a list of employees.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

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

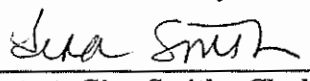

Rick Ryfa - President


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer