

**September 15, 2020**

## **TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 15, 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:

- Detective James M. Skernivitz
- Investigator Luis Mario Herrera
- Deputy Sheriff Ryan Hendrix

### **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 September 1, 2020 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Claims No. 29852-30127 \$737,089.39 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, October 6, 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.
2. There will be a Re-Development meeting on September 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm; there will be study session before the meeting at 6:00.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Public Hearing for 2021 Budget: No Public Comments: Council Member Tony Hobson read: Be it ordained/resolved by the Griffith Town Council that for the expenses of Griffith Civil Town for the year ending December 31, 2021 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.  
Adopted Budget \$13,132,300.00 / Adopted Tax Levy \$9,386,332.00 / Adopted Tax Rate: 1.5318. This is the first reading of the Budget, we will have another reading in approximately 30 days.
2. Halloween 2020: This year the Town will be having Trick or Treat on October 31, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 pm.

## REPORTS:

- Public Works – Hydrant flushing concluding. Finishing up at: West of Cline, East of Wiggs, South of Elm and North of Elm. The pumping that we have working with the storm water analysis, the markings are in various parts of town where they be putting the ground water measurement, following up on the water gauges.
- 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: NONE

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request to hire Firefighters Robert Bowman and Kenneth Keilman for Station 32, based on the recommendation of the Safety Board, Council Member Melissa made a motion to approve the hiring, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob McGinnis stated he was present at the Town Council meeting 2 weeks ago, which the minutes, he believes, Council Member Melissa Robbins rescinded the motion on the 50% discount, he stated he couldn't make the meeting and sent a representative, and he said nothing was done, Council President Rick Ryfa stated that is quite the contrary, that a motion was carried to reduce the impact fees by 50% based on the number of lots that would be included in the initial hook up. Bob McGinnis stated we are not abiding by the Ordinance, Bob McGinnis stated Ordinance 213-02- Section 78 183, states there is \$11,000.00 multifamily unit, tap in and development, which is the Impact Fee. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we made a motion to reduce the Impact fees put upon anyone weather one unit or 10 units, based on the number of units. Bob McGinnis stated the Ordinance 2 inch line is \$11,000.00. Rick Konopasek stated the ordinance states 2 inch meter, nothing about a 2 inch tap/feed. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have not discussed that on the floor, again motion to reduce the Impact fees. Bob McGinnis stated the motion was rescinded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, the minutes reflect that, Council Member Jim Marker gave Mr. McGinnis a copy of the minutes, he asked how to proceed, Council President stated he needs to file for the permit application with Building Dept. and Public Works. Rick Konopasek stated the contractor has put in a road cut permit to cut your tap/ feed into a manhole on Oak and Colfax; Mr. Konopasek put a hold on that until the owner of the Mobile Home Park pays the fees. The Town will not allow a contractor to impede our infrastructure until the fees have been paid, which was communicated to the Contractor Borok the Road Cut permit which they need to make that connection, until the fees are paid by the owner of the Mobil Home Park to include their sanitary sewer in our system. Mr. McGinnis stated this has been going on for 2 years all the objections and obstruction and everything else, Mr. McGinnis stated the town will probably not be happy with him.

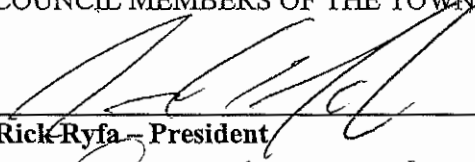
Council Member Jim Marker asked if this is the same gentleman that asked permission to gain access to our facility. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is an out of town Mobile Home Park, the state was involved 2 years ago, the Town was reluctant to accept this Park on to the Sanitary System because of the Influx, long term sanitary issues that had been in existence, we have put in a new interceptor which will help with flow and significant upgrades and improvements of the Sanitary system. Our Engineers believe this will not have a negative impact

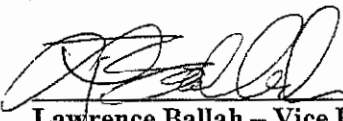
on our Sanitary System, recommended to accept. IDEM and other state agencies requested we accept them due to their current system was failing. We agreed to accept them and have them pay their fair share. We will request the engineer to review during the permit process before proceeding.

Bill Marvel commented from what he understands the State wanted us to help out lack of polluting another area so we are expanding a sanitary district and offering a discount price and we are pretty confident that the system can handle the extra flow. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we are very confident; the discount has nothing to do with the sanitary it is the Impact fee. There will be other fees associated. We try to work with our State partners. Council Member Tony Hobson stated there are elderly people in this particular park that could possibly lose their home if we don't step in.

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

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

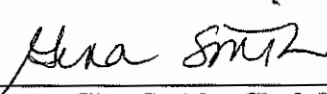
  
Rick Ryfa - President

  
Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer