

November 17, 2020

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 17, 2020 meeting to order at 7:06 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 Marshall Waters, Jr.
- Sergeant Sean Rios
- Police Officer Travis C. Wallace

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police - Absent
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner
Sheri Bradtke McNeil – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
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 October 27, 2020 As presented, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No. 30762-31109 \$1,915,352.16 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, December 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.
2. There will be a Re-Development meeting on November 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm; there will be study session before the meeting at 6:00.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Jake Dammarell from Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. spoke regarding Town Sidewalk and ADA Ramps Program; there was a field survey of all the sidewalks. The sidewalks were rated 1 – 5, with 1 being the worst. Also, the ADA ramps being compliant or non compliant. With these tools the town could create a plan to replace areas, starting with the ones in high priority. The age of the sidewalks go back 60 plus years. This would be a project asking for public input.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Leaf Vacs are out, requesting residents to move vehicles out of the way.

- 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. Park Board Appointment – Continued till next meeting, may be in need of new member, requesting applications.
2. Police Department- Approval to auction off two surplus vehicles. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the auction, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
3. Fire Department – Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the hire of Mark Whitlock, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
4. 2020 Cares Act-Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2020-17 Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules and act on this. Roll Call all approved, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-17 seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
5. Letter of Engagement with Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP, to represent the town, also join with Highland, Dyer, Whiting and Munster (sharing the legal costs) regarding Hammond Water, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept the letter of engagement and allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
6. Walsh and Kelley Contractors – Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve extending the existing yearly asphalt paving contract from 2020 through 2021 for work to be completed in 2021, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
7. Pinkerton Fuel & Lubricants-Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve to renew the contract with Pinkerton Fuel & Lubricants, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
8. Street Supervisor Colin Peterson- Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve an additional week of vacation for Mr. Peterson beginning in 2021, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
9. Permission to advertise and / or solicit quotes for new large mower with articulating arm for ditch bank mowing. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Public works to advertise, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
10. Press Release-Road Closure, Ruefh Drive. On Saturday 11/21/2020 Griffith Fire Dept. will conduct training. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
11. Letter to rebuild if over 50% destroyed- 920-922 N Wood St. Official letter to Lender to the underwriter allowing the home to be rebuild, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to send a letter to the lender, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

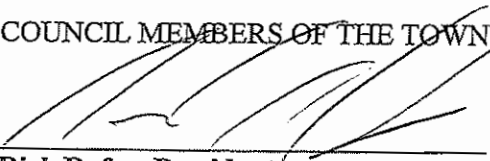
Tiffany Nelson spoke, lives on Broad St. Bought her home in February, there is no parking, council will see what can be done, and she received a warning for parking, requested the restaurant to allow parking but was not allowed. Suggested to speak with her realtor since she was told there would be no issue with parking. Possibly adding gravel for a drive.


Leah Dumizich spoke regarding sensory bags donated to Police Officers; she would like to be added to the agenda for the next safety board to present.

Leah was also requesting to be added to the Town Council agenda for study session, Council President Rick Ryfa stated we are going week by week due to Covid. Welcomed Leah for future study sessions. The study sessions are normally 2nd and 4th of the month.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40p.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

