

**December 8, 2020**

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

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 8, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 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:

- Patrolman Cassie Johnson

#### **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 - Absent  
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Claims No. 31110-31363 \$1,521,093.59 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 15, 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 an executive session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 5:45 p.m.
3. Hal Slager, our newly elected State Representative was present. Council President Rick Ryfa congratulated him on his election.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson announced the Community Crossing Matching Grant Fund.
2. Council Member James Marker read a letter of retirement from Public Works director Rick Konopasek. Council President Rick Ryfa thanked Mr. Konopasek for his dedication.
3. Job description will be posted on the Town of Griffith website by next week.

### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – Finishing up leaf collection this week. Rick Konopasek congratulated Tricia Kistler for her 30 years of service.

- Police – Chief Greg Mance thanked Rick Konopasek for his leadership.
- Fire – Chief Roy Schoon thanked Rick Konopasek for his service and Council President Rick Ryfa thanked the Chief for all their work with helping with the Christmas decorations.
- Building Commissioner – Steve McDermott thanked Rick Konopasek for his service.
- Finance - No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 2020-18 Additional Appropriation: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to adopt the Additional Appropriation Resolution 2020-18, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. Salary Ordinance 2020-20 Council Member Larry Ballah read the first reading. No action required this evening.
3. Resolution 2020-21 Resolution to Transfer Appropriations Council Member James Marker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-21, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
4. Resolution 2020-22 Transfer of Monies, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-22, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
5. Resolution 2020-23 Resolution Transferring Monies, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-23, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
6. Erie Lackawanna Broad St. Trailhead & Ally Improvements- Butler, Fairman & Seufert Supplemental Agreement #1: Subsurface Utility Engineering & Investigation required by NIPSCO. NTE \$4,700.00 Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept this agreement and allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried
7. IDEM Storm Water Permit Compliance, MS4 Permit Number INR040108. Butler, Fairman & Seufert Agreement for:
  - a) Complete the required Annual Inspection of all Town of Griffith owned & operated facilities.
  - b) Develop, schedule and complete two (2) employee trainings by January 31, 2021 and submit report to MS4 Coordinator & Town Council. Not to Exceed \$5,200.00. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
8. Permission to Lease / Purchase new John Deere Tractor 6110m outfitted with Tiger Boom Mower Bengal Brute. \$31,242.15 annual payment for 5 years. Annual payment based on \$147,396.36 purchase price. Council Member Tony Hobson stated the numbers came in a little lower, Rick Konopasek stated the numbers are \$141,017.36 annual payment of \$29,890.04, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Public Works to purchase, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
9. Board and Commission Appointments- Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have an opening on the Park Board , posted on the website

10. Emergency WM replacement from Wren Ct. to Forest Ave. Council Member James Marker made a public service announcement
11. Griffith American with Disabilities ACT (ADA) Transition Plan & Title VI Compliance Plan, work that will be completed in the Town of Griffith, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept this agreement and allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign, seconded by Council Member Member James Marker, Motion Carried.


**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

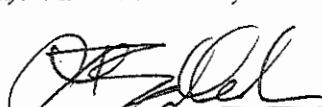
Diane Jerome spoke to the council regarding her water bill for her sprinkler meter; her bills have been extremely high. She gave handouts to the Council of her previous readings, her bill has been estimated, and she requested someone to come out to read her meter, the next month her bill was estimated. (Her outside meter) She had a new meter replaced and it was still not reading correctly. This has been going on for over 2 years.

The Water department will pull the last 5 year usage and review. Mrs. Jerome wants to get this fixed and resolve this problem. Town Council President stated the batteries are going out and we have been in contact with the manufacture to replace the faulty equipment. We will review and resolve this problem.

**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