

February 16, 2021

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 16, 2021 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Special Agent Laura Ann Schwartzenger
Special Agent Daniel Alfin
Patrolman Darian Jarrott
Police Officer Mitchell Penton

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson - Absent
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner -Absent
Sheri Bradtke McNeil – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief
Trisha Kistler – Interim Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No. 32012-32232 in the amount of \$910,900.46 Council Member James 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, March 2, 2021, 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. The next Redevelopment Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a study session before the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and one will follow if necessary.
3. Due to the severe and unsafe weather conditions, Republic Services has delayed trash pick-up by one day. All trash and recycling will be collected on Friday, February 19, 2021. Republic Services is requesting all containers be accessible and clear of snow and ice for the drivers to safely service.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

- Public Works –Trisha Kistler stated the crews are working around the clock removing snow. Payloaders will be used to clear the alleys.
- Police – Chief Mance reminded residents to move their vehicles, so the trucks can plow, making the roads safer for our residents. Vehicles that have been warned will receive ticket.
- Fire – Chief Schoon requested help from residents to clear the fire hydrants.
- Building Commissioner - No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointment of Aviation Advisory Committee: The Town Council will be forming an Aviation advisory Committee, a couple years ago the Town was approached by the Airport, they were having a difficult time to maintain operations. The FAA and Feds have changed the funding where private airports are no longer receiving grant monies that they need to sustain. We were approached to potentially purchase the airport from them. We have hired various aviation attorneys as well consultants. Reports have been compiled and presented to the council. At this time, we are asking any residents that would be interested in sitting on this advisory board to send in their resume, either bring to Town Hall or email to hrrecruiting@griffith.in.gov.
2. Ordinance 2021-7: Amending the Salary Ordinance, Changing the classification levels for mechanic. Council Member James Marker gave the first reading.
3. Resolution 2021-8 Approval of a Temporary loan from varies funds to the Bond Temporary Transfer Fund. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to Adopt Resolution 2021-8, seconded by Council Member Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
4. Resolution 2021-9 Resolution authorizing the Town of Griffith to enter into an agreement with Lake County, In in undertaking Community Development Activities. Council President Rick Ryfa made a motion to entertain the resolution. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-9, Motion Carried.
5. Check write off from 2018. The Clerk Treasurer has 2018 checks which must be written off the books in 2021. This procedure is done according to the State Board of Accounts yearly. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow the Clerk Treasurer to write off these checks. Seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

Pending Items:

1. **Sidewalk Replacement Program:** Engineers are working on finalizing the scope and cost.

Public Comment:


Jim Masters: Asking for attention to be given to the bike trail. He stated the bike trail is unrideable. Asking for repairs. Stated bad cracks and weeds growing in-between. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we just got the final numbers and will be addressing the Bike Path with the Sidewalk Program. Jim also thanked Council Member Jim Marker for helping with the sign by South Park, regarding deer.


Tim Diamond asked about the trustee transition. Council President Rick Ryfa stated he will be having a conversation with the new trustee shortly.


Steven Richey asked the status of the Franklin Center. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have some tenants, looking at potential new tenants for short term. Possibly sell. Steven stated he would like to go in and see the Franklin Center.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24p.m.

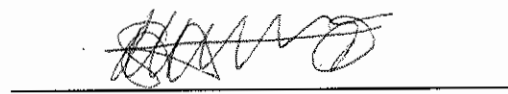
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa - President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President


Tony Hobson - Absent


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer