

March 16, 2021

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 16, 2021 meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Officer Jesse Madsen
Police Officer Gary Hibbs
Police Officer Kevin Valencia

ROLL CALL:

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

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
Trisha Kistler – Interim Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No. 32397-32603 in the amount of \$925,914.78, 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, April 6, 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.
There may be a conflict with this date, we will announce if the meeting is moved to a different day.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

- Public Works –No Report
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner - No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Central Park Sidewalk Replacement:** Council President Rick Ryfa stated CBDG funds will mostly be used. We receive an allotment every 2 years. We have asked Butler Fairman & Seufert to oversee this project. Begin the publication process. Jake, from Butler Fairman & Seufert, presented the next steps, once approval from Town Council, we will request bids, removing and replacing sidewalks, ADA. Advertised on the Griffith Town Website. Bids will be due to the Clerk Treasurer Office, located at 111 N Broad St. Griffith IN, on April 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. They will be open and read aloud. The Town Council will make an award on April 13, 2021 at the regular Town Council Meeting.
Council President Rick Ryfa stated this will replace all the sidewalks in Central Park to make them handicap accessible. The brick pavers we will retain the current bricks with the names on them. We will offer new bricks, a new program with established price. Great opportunity for a family to purchase. We will get this advertised on the website. Late May we anticipate starting to project. Council President entertained a motion for the Town Council President to sign the agreement for the Town of Griffith Solicitation for Quotations, Council Member Tony Hobson made the motion, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah, Motion Carried.

Pending Items:

1. **Sidewalk Replacement Program:** Working very quickly with the side walk program. Council President Rick Ryfa asked Jake, from Butler Fairman, & Seufert, any updates. Jake stated no update but anticipates next week to rollout to the residents. Ongoing effort to allow residents to see the project. Jake stated they did a rating 1-5. 1 being poor, and 5 being great. Sidewalks rated 1-3, safety concerns.
We are putting together a plan for the contractors to bid. There will be 3 contracts. Project may take 1-1/2 years to complete. 80 % of our sidewalks will be replaced. 92 miles of sidewalks, Council President Rick Ryfa asks residents to make contact if they have any concerns regarding their sidewalks.

Public Comment:

Dan Reardon, he is the fitness director for F.A.T., requesting a festival at Central Park on May 15, 2021, 9am to 4 pm. This is a Fitness and Tranquility Festival Fest. To create awareness of healthy diet. He would like to use the Pavilion and ¼ part of the park. (Pine Street) Council President asked if there would be a band, Dan stated a DJ possibly. Any alcohol? Dan stated no. Council Member Tony asked if there will be demonstrations or fight for the boxing. Dan stated it would be a spar. One guy padded and the other demonstrating moves, asked if he had contacted the Police, he stated he had talked with Michelle Velez.
Council Member Lawrence Ballah made a motion to approve this event, pending final approval by the Safety Board, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.

Tim Diamond, asked when baseball will be starting, first of May.
Tim asked about the sidewalk at the Memorial Path, bench pads replaced. Jake stated there are a few bench pads adjacent to the sidewalk will be replaced.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.m.

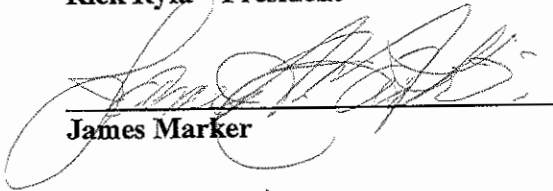
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

Absent

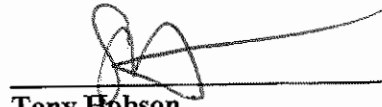
Rick Ryfa – President



Lawrence Ballah – Vice President



James Marker



Tony Hobson



Melissa Robbins - Absent



Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer