

April 20, 2021

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 20, 2021 meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

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 - Absent
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief - Absent
Trisha Kistler – Interim Director of Public Works - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims # 32957-33061 \$706,605.41, 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, May 4, 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.

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. Letter of Recommendation: Central Park Sidewalk Replacement – CBDG** Upon review of the bids by Butler, Fairman and Seufert, INC, H3 Concrete, Inc was determined to be the lowest responsive quoter. It was recommended the the Project referenced be awarded to H3 Concrete Inc. for the quote price of \$133,935.80, based on previous work, it is believed the H3 Concrete, Inc. is capable of completing the work as required.
 - 2. Notice of Award:** Side walk Replacement in Central Park: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion, based on Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. recommendation, to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the Award Letter, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
 - 3. Aviation Committee Appointments:** Council Member James Marker read the names: Cherise Govert, John, Sobowcheck, Andrew Tyson, Christine Bushby, Roz Pondo, Curtis Adams, Charles Kallas, George Jerome, and Gary Sutton. Council Member James Marker made a motion recommending these names for the Aviation Committee to the Town Council President seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried, Council President Rick Ryfa will create the committee and appoint the names to the committee, they will review the financials and any other documents pertaining to the airport and provide a recommendation to the Town Council to proceed with the purchase.
 - 4. Public Works – Approval to purchase a truck:** Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the purchase of the vehicle approximately \$30,000.00, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
 - 5. Golf Cart Ordinance:** First Reading, Council Member Tony Hobson read the first reading. We are working on amendments and should have ready for our next meeting.
 - 6. Resolution 2021-11:** Resolution of the Griffith Town Council approving an addendum to a certain lease agreement between the Griffith Redevelopment Authority and the Griffith Redevelopment Commission, and the issuance of bonds in connection therewith, and taking other actions related thereto. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
 - 7. Resolution 2021-10: Resolution authorizing the purchase of property located 114 E Main St. Griffith IN, for \$279,900.00,** Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-10, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
 - 8. Gary Shakespeare Company-** Request to waive rental fee. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve pending final approval from the Park Board, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
 - 9. Diamond Divas Softball Club:** Request to hang banners till mid-June, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
 - 10. 2021 Town Events:** Council Member Tony Hobson listed the events: Griffith Central Market every Friday May 7-Sept. 17, Broad Street Blues and BBQ Festival June 25-27, Symphony in the Park August 7, Rockopelli Music Festival August 14 & 15, Rock N Rail Music and Street Festival Sept, 2-5, Oktoberfest Oct. 1-3, We do recommend that people follow the state guidelines during the festivals, Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to approve the events, Council Member Tony Hobson so moved, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
- Independence Day Celebration and Market on the 2nd and 3rd:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried. The parade will start at noon on Saturday, the park will open up with food and music, fireworks show around dusk. First fireworks for the 4th of July.

Pending Items:

1. **Sidewalk Replacement Program:** We expect our engineers to be at our next Town Council Meeting, they will give an overview update. About 80% of our sidewalks have been rated at worse. They will be presenting their plans on May 4th.

Public Comment:

John Wotkun, from Imagine Griffith, requesting permit fees be waived for the spring garage sales, Council President Rick Ryfa stated he will have it on the agenda for the May 4th Town Council Meeting.

Emily Conner from Griffith Public Schools was requesting permit fees to be reduced or waived. Council President Rick Ryfa stated he would like to see the plans for projects and would review.

Council President Rick Ryfa acknowledged Steve Kovecsi in the audience, welcomed him back.

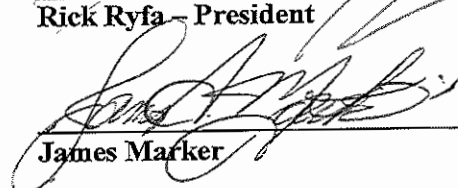
Tim Diamond spoke regarding the Midwest Handball tournament on June 5, 2021 at Cheever Park

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.

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

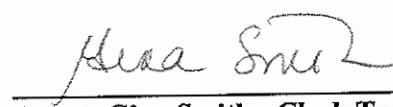

Rick Ryfa – President


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer