

May 4, 2021

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 4, 2021 meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Police Officer Anastasio Tsakos
Corporal Keith Heacock
Sergeant Chris Ward
Deputy sheriff Logan Fox
Police Officer Christopher Farrar

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
Trisha Kistler – Intermit Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims # 33062-33207 \$754,132.41, 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 18, 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. There will be a Re-Development meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Midwest Handball Tournament: June 5, 2021, the Parks and Recreation has requested an alcohol permit, there will be 4 requirements:
 1. No glass bottles of any kind
 2. Beer and wine only
 3. Consumption only, no sales of alcohol permitted
 4. Must be 21 or older

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

2. Imagine Griffith-Spring Yard Sale: Letter from Valerie Wotkun requesting to host a spring town wide garage sale, and requesting permits for each participant to be waived. Council Member James Marker made a motion waiving permits for Imagine Griffith spring town wide garage sale on May 21, 22, & 23rd, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa stated the map will be posted on our website.
3. Panther Parents -GHS Football Team Car Wash at Franklin Center: Lori Rose, Vice President for Panther Parents, requesting approval for a car wash on either Saturday, June 5th, or Saturday June 19th. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow the Panther Parents to host the requested car wash and coordinate with Michelle Velez for the requested day, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
4. Fire Department Approval of Events: The Griffith Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating their service to the Town of Griffith for 100 years, technically they turned 100 last year but due to covid were forced to cancel the celebration. Moving forward this year with some modifications, very busy schedule. They are requesting the Council to approve the activities and asking the Town Council to help support the GRFD with funds for advertising. Also requesting the Council to allow them to place 8 banners about the Town advertising all the activities. One at each station, the football fence, fence on Lake and Broad, Cline and Ridge, Ridge and Broad, fence at Colfax and Main. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the banners and give the Griffith Fire Department \$500.00 for advertisement purposes, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa asked the time frame, typically our ordinance allows 2 weeks, we will discuss.

REPORTS:

- Public Works- No Report
- Police – No Report
- Fire – Chief Roy Schoon thanked the Council and the residents for their support for the GRFD.
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **BZA Finding of Facts: Walgreens/Village Medicine:** We have a recommendation from the Board of Zoning for Use of Variance to add a medical and clinical office in the Walgreens Pharmacy located at 1225 W. Ridge Rd. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept the Finding of Facts, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
2. **Resolution 2021-12** Resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund, whereas in the appropriations of funds in the budgets of various departments of the Town of Griffith, there is a need to transfer fund appropriations. Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, that to meet the need to transfer certain appropriations there

is hereby the transference of appropriations as follows: Transferring from the General Fund to Various Appropriations, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

- 3. Resolution 2021-13:** A Resolution of the Griffith Town Council Approving a Second Addendum to a certain Lease Agreement Between the Griffith Redevelopment Authority and the Griffith Redevelopment Commission, and the issuance of refunding Bonds in connection therewith, and taking other actions related thereto, we are refinancing some bonds we took out years ago, rates are more favorable and save the town between \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-13, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
- 4. Resolution 2021-14:** Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, regarding the setting of Public Hearings and authorizing the publication of notices of Public Hearings in conjunction with a proposed Town Hall/Police Station/Fire Station Renovations/expansion project and regarding certain related matters. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa stated this Resolution will authorize Clerk Treasurer Gina Smith to issue the publication for the public hearings, Motion Carried.
- 5. Resolution 2021-15:** Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, regarding the setting of public hearings and authorizing the publication of notices of public hearings in conjunction with a proposed sidewalk and street project and regarding certain related matters. Council Member James Marker made a motion to authorize Gina Smith to give public notice regarding Resolution 2021-15, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
- 6. Resolution 2021-16:** Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, regarding the setting of Public hearings and authorizing the publication of notices of public hearings in conjunction with a proposed sidewalk and street project and regarding certain related matters. Council Member James Marker made a motion authorizing Gina Smith giving public notice regarding Resolution 2021-16, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
- 7. Presentation by BF&S- Sidewalk and Park Improvement: Current Town of Griffith Projects:** Jessica Nix, Butler, Fairman, & Seufert Inc., gave a presentation of the Erie Lackawanna Trailhead, the scope of the project is the Trailhead design, Trail re-alignment, parking lot expansion, alley improvements, stormwater improvements, and landscape details. The Central Park, phase 1, Northeast corner, pine and broad, removal of large trees, the scope is to enhance the beauty of the park, formal entrance, fence and brick columns, accent lighting, auxiliary pavilion with patio, paths connecting formal entrance, auxiliary pavilion, and existing pavilion, landscape details. Final construction plans should be wrapped up by August 15, 2021. Jessica provided examples of the Fence and Brick Column. Sean Mikos, Butler, Fairman, & Seufert Inc. gave a presentation on the “Why Sidewalk Program is needed”. Sean went over the existing conditions and the sidewalk ratings 5-High Rating 1- Low Rating. The approximate start date is August 2, 2021, Construction Completion: Contract A 9/30/2022, Contract B 5/12/2023, Contract C 8/18/2023. Residents Expectations: Sidewalk Removal, Sidewalk Framing, Concrete Pour/finish, Concrete Curing (3 days), Approximately 7 days total. Additional construction considerations: Parking Restrictions, construction debris, trees, seeding, driveway aprons. The sequence of Events: 1. Award Contract 2. Contractor to set schedule for project 3. Contractor to Notify Residents 4. Begin Construction. There will be information on our website (www.griffith.in.gov)

Council President Rick Ryfa stated the contractor will be making decisions regarding aprons for driveways, will not be the Town Council making decisions.

Pending Items:

1. Sidewalk Replacement Program:

Public Comment:

Ashley Simpson had a question regarding tree removal, she has 2 gorgeous Elm trees in front of her house. One looks like it disturbs the sidewalk, asked if it would be replaced, Sean Mikos replied that they will work with her and let her know before removing, stated all trees do not have to be removed but will review with her. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have access to many trees and try to replace the trees with acceptable trees for where they will be.

Rose stated she has a red maple tree. Her neighbors tree blew down. She stated she lives by the park where it is being torn up.

Tim Diamond asked about the project at the bike trail talked about a shelter, and restroom, Council President Rick Ryfa stated it is still in the design stage, as you are well aware, with restrooms is a nice idea but a huge liability.

Tim asked about the shelter being ADA approved, Council President Rick Ryfa stated he imagines it will be a small shelter (resting area)

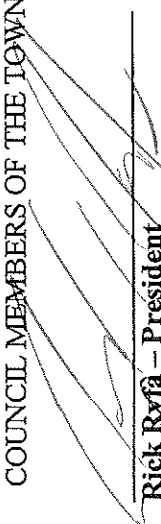
Rose, asked about the Restaurant Depot, she received a certified letter, she was asking if there was anything she needed to worry about, Council President Rick Ryfa stated it's a re-zoning.

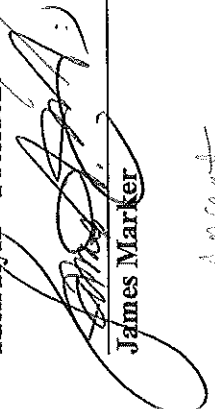
Steve McDermott spoke regarding the water retention, storm water pond, they are looking for a slight variance. There will be a public hearing on May 7th, if there are any questions. McDermott stated it is a high-water table, safely put pipes in the ground.

Council President Rick Ryfa stated there will be an Executive session on May 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. regarding conduct interviews for Public Works Director.
Council President Rick Ryfa was glad to see former Public Works Director, Rick Konopasek, in the audience.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45p.m.

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


Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer