

# April 19, 2016

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 19, 2016 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### ROLL CALL:

James Marker  
Larry Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Patricia Schaadt  
Tony Hobson

### ALSO ATTENDING:

George Jerome - Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Police Chief  
Don Hill – Assistant Fire Chief  
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works  
Bob Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to adopt the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claim No. 6259 – 6487 in the amount of \$1,218,932.83 (one million, two hundred eighteen thousand, nine hundred thirty-two dollars and eighty-three cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a council study session on Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
2. Due to the Primary Election on Tuesday May 3, the next council meeting will be Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. A study session will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting one will follow if necessary.
3. The National Day of Prayer will be celebrated at Griffith Town Hall Council Chamber on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon

### COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chris Kovach presented a letter from Hammond Sanitary District (HSD) rejecting Turnberry at Trail Creek's request for a Sanitary Certification and asked what recourse the developer may have to appeal the decision.
  - a. Town Attorney Bob Schwerd pointed out that HSD was inaccurate in several assertions made in their letter. The Town will be able to provide the developer with the specific false assertions.
  - b. Council President Ryfa explained that the Town was attempting to work with HSD but given their intransigence, the issue may be resolved in court.
2. Council Member Jim Marker, moved to approve a request by the Knights of Columbus to conduct a Tootsie Roll Sale June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

### REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works
  - a. The Leaf Vacuum is out for a two week period
  - b. Public Works will also pick up bagged leaves and branches.
3. Police – No Report
4. Fire
  - a. The Annual Boot Drive in support of Hoosier Burn Camp will take place April 30<sup>th</sup>
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
  - a. Clerk-Treasurer George Jerome reported that Griffith taxpayers had a 13% reduction in their tax rate in spite of a significant increase in the Calumet Township portion of their bill.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:**

Mike Riese, 1912 N Indiana asked what was included in the approved claims

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to approve Ordinance 2016-13: An Ordinance Amending the Infraction Deferral Program, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- b. Council Member Jim Marker moved to approve Ordinance 2016-14: An Ordinance Amending Fines for Moving Violations and Payments in Lieu of Court, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Proposals for Internal Control Procedures were opened and read by Council Member Larry Ballah who moved to refer them to Attorney Schwerd and Clerk-Treasurer Jerome for review and recommendation, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- b. Council Member Pat Schaadt presented an LPA – Consulting Contract with Butler, Fairman and Seufert for the Erie Lackawanna-Oak Savannah Trail Connector and recommended approval, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Albert Bajorek, 1245 Thistle thanked Building Commissioner Steve McDermott for his quick response in regard to a contractor using power from a home adjacent to the one where he was working.
- Mike Riese, 1912 N Indiana thanked the Police Department for their good work in town and had questions about the portable speed signs, the bike trail, wheel taxes and commented that more needs to be done on the north side of town including the theater and former Service Merchandise and the intersection of Ridge & Arbogast.
- Deb Meadows, 530 Astor Lane asked about the sign advertising homes in Trail Creek at prices below what current residents paid. Marilyn Garzella, 1187 Sawgrass agreed and was concerned about property values
- Jim Konopasek, 311 W 44<sup>th</sup> repeated his comments of March 15, 2016 regarding the need to preserve Town and Family histories.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p. m.**

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

ABSENT 5/2/2016  
Rick Ryfa, President

Patricia Schaadt  
Patricia Schaadt

James Marker  
James Marker

Tony Hobson  
Tony Hobson

Larry Ballah  
Larry Ballah

Attest:

George N. Gröme  
George N. Gröme  
Clerk-Treasurer

# ***PROCLAMATION***

## ***Town of Griffith***

**WHEREAS** an estimated 10 million people in the United States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or cure; and

**WHEREAS** it often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated on the diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia; and

**WHEREAS** fibromyalgia is a chronic pain disorder—becoming an increasingly common diagnosis and taking a toll emotionally, financially and socially on patients, their family, friends, co-workers and community; and

**WHEREAS** people with fibromyalgia are never completely symptom-free; they are always in pain; this pain impacts every area of their life and others must step up to fill in the voids left when all the patients' efforts are focused on just getting through the day, showing just how much fibromyalgia truly hurts everyone; and

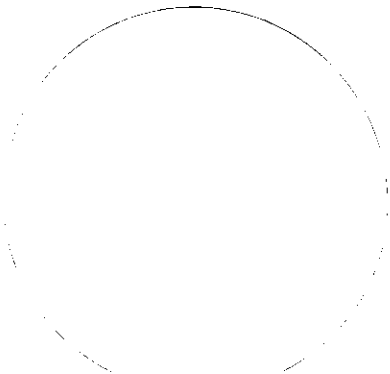
**WHEREAS** the chronically ill place a larger burden on the health care and insurance industries and businesses that must cover the costly expenses associated with their treatment, medications and sometimes hospitalizations; and

**WHEREAS** increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support patients and their family, friends, co-workers and employers who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

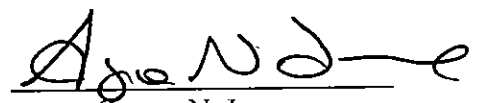
**WHEREAS** Fibromites Unite, the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association, and other groups around our country have joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness and support - including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment,

**NOW THEREFORE**, as President of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana I do hereby recognize the needs of these chronically ill people and proclaim May 12, 2016 as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Griffith, Indiana and urge all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis.

  
Rick Ryfa  
Council President



Attest:

  
George N. Jerome  
Clerk-Treasurer