

are some things in the contract that would allow another 10-year renewal, we would see what type of rates there would be so right now we've got set rates for 10 years and we feel we are in good shape for a while. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Jacki Braun asked about the 9 trees on the northeast side of Central Park, asking the reason for taking down the trees. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we are doing a complete makeover of that end of the Park and it is the first phase of a rehabilitation of the Central Park, that will turn into one of the main entrances to the park, it will lead to a patio or small pavilion and a walkway. Some of the trees needed to go they were dangerous for the most part, several hanging over Broad Street, recent storm caused dangerous limbs falling. Jacki asked about tree replacements and some easements without trees. Jacki asked about the truck spraying, asked what chemicals are being used, Andy Raab stated he will have that on our website. Jacki had concerns about the chemicals harming other insects, butterflies.

George Krug asked about spraying on the bike path. Andy Raab said he would check. Mr. Krug also asked about the sidewalk replacement, if it includes sidewalk new construction where there are no sidewalks. Council President Rick Ryfa stated in certain parts of town. He stated we would look at the area 200 block of True St.

Rose Johnson asked about 39th Ave Park, she has heard rumors and wanted to know what was going on. She also stated Restaurant Depot had been spray painting and there is a white film on our cars and afraid it will get in her air conditioner unit.


Martin Czachowski stated he was there in regards to shipwrecked, it has escalated they have scheduled 3 nights of week live music outside. He stated they are not supposed to have an outdoor music. He is wanting this taken care of. Chief Mance stated the amount of sound that is being heard in a short distance away from the business is quieter than passing vehicles, flying planes overhead, the volume that is escaping their property is extremely low, we have contacted many of the neighbors and they don't find the volume of the music to be excessive and they are happy this business is located in Griffith. The Police have recorded the sound and found there is no violation.

Robin Robinson asked about the water meters being repaired, estimated bills, Council President Rick Ryfa stated we are working with the Engineers and will be having a public bidding, Robin asked if the homeowner would need to be home. Explained there would be scheduling.

Resident asked about the Tornado Siren, she stated she lives on the North end of her subdivision and heard the siren for the first time, Chief Mance explained there was a power related issue at the dispatch center. She feels like it is cause for concern, she has started a program where she has the names, how many adults, how many kids in each house so if there is a catastrophe they can give information to the first responders, she asked if the Chief or Fire would want a copy. Chief said yes.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.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

Tony Hobson, Council President Rick Ryfa stated the majority of this work was funded by Community block development grant funds that is federally funded dollars. We made the new sidewalks in the park are all handicap accessible even to the playground, we were adjustable to justify the use of those funds, Motion Carried.

6. **Road Surfacing Bids:** Council Member Tony Hobson stated we put out bids for surfacing, we received 2 bids, the first bid that will be opened is from **Milestone Contractors:** Total bid is: \$389,576.71. Council President Rick Ryfa stated he believes this is also 50/50 Community Crossing Grants, so the town would pay 50% and the state would pay the other 50% for these. The next bid is from **Rieth Riley Construction Co., Inc.** Total bid is: \$421,362.70. Council Member recommended that we would take these bids under advisement. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to have the bids reviewed by our Town Attorney and the Town Engineer, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
7. **Notice of Award Reder Road Water Main Extension:** Council President Rick Ryfa stated this will be a new water main that would service the Southeast part of town, it will improve the water quality in the whole Trail Creek area and everything in that general southeast part. We are going to wait to award this with the note and the notice to proceed until we have the funding fully in place. We have two sources of funding mechanism, one is an application which is called swift funds and that would be a 50/50 match regardless of our funds that we will receive under the American Rescue Plan which will be allowed to use for water work. Griffith is set to receive approximately \$3.2 million to \$3.3 million, in the rescue funds, this bid came in from Gatlin low at about \$1,050,000.00. The other portion of the funds we are still working on trying to match and maximize the amount of dollars we can get out of it with other applications on our swift program. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to continue this award to another date, Council Member Larry Ballah stated so moved, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried

Pending Items:

1. **Sidewalk Replacement Program:** We will be accepting the bids as mentioned earlier, next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. we will be opening the bids and will take those under advisement.
2. **Airport Advisory Committee:** There will be an advisory committee meeting. The first meeting will be on July 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. All the members will contact this week, if you have not been contacted please contact Town Hall. We had some technical issues with emails when switched over our email servers.
3. **Hammond Water Works Agreement:** We have had a dispute with Hammond for many months, we have come into a settlement agreement as well and we have been offered a purchase agreement to purchase water for the next 10 years.
Council Member Tony Hobson read the settlement agreement and mutual release, this is including the Town of Highland, Dyer, Griffith, Whiting and Munster. We worked collectively together to reach the settlement with the Hammond Water Works Department. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the settlement agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

Council Member Larry Ballah stated we have received the contract from the Hammond Water Department and it is listing out the rates that we have discussed before at our Town Council Meetings, nothing has changed, the rates we have agreed to and are excited about this, for the next 10 years we should be pretty good! Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the contract, seconded by Council Member James Marker, Council President Rick Ryfa stated there

- 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. **Fire Department- Hiring of three probationary firefighters:** Council Member Melissa Robbins read the recommendation to the Town Council from the Safety Board, to hire Timothy Jenkins for Station 31, Alex Szorc for Station 32, and Ralph Lahens for Station 33. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the hiring of the three seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa congratulated them and welcomed them aboard.
2. **Engagement Letter General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021 9th “Securities”**) Council Member Tony Hobson read the Engagement Letter from Piper Sandler, regarding the Bonds that the Town of Griffith is getting ready to issue, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the engagement letter with Piper Sandler, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa stated that what this does, when we refinanced the Bonds last month we engaged with this firm and they were able to save us a little over \$400,000.00, saved us more than we anticipated. With their expertise in placing municipal bonds we did really well and this would be a good way to save money going forward. Motion Carried.
3. **Ordinance 2021-34 Amending Town Code Chapter 50 Parks and Recreation, Article III Parks Rules and regulation section 50-67 Entitled Alcoholic Beverages.** Council Member James Marker made a motion to suspend the rules for the first reading, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Roll Call was taken, all in favor, Council Member James Marker made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-34, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
4. **Resolution 2021-35 Approving and Authorizing Attendees to bring their own alcoholic beverages to the Town Symphony in the Park Event Saturday, August 7, 2021.** Council Member Larry Ballah read Resolution 2021-35, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-35, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Council President Rick Ryfa stated one important clarification the resolution would allow anyone to bring alcohol three hours before the event and up to one hour after the Symphony, asking people to be careful and use your common sense and preferably not bring any glass bottles if possible just to avoid any breakage or any vandalism. Motion Carried.
5. **Central Park Sidewalk Replacement:** Council Member Melissa Robbins read the change order from H3 regarding the Central Park Replacement, it was determined that the brick paver area around the existing drinking fountain should be reconstructed to reconstruct it to match the new memorial walk included in this change order is the necessary labor material and equipment to remove the existing pavers, regrade the area, install concrete curb, sleeper slab and pavers currently being stored by the Town of Griffith. It was also determined that the extra work would be required to remove and reset the heritage walk bricks at the southeast corner of the park. The total of the change was \$10,840.00. The original contract price was \$133,935.80, which will bring the new amount to \$144,775.80. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve this change order, seconded by Council Member

July 20, 2021

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the July 20, 2021 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Detective Greg Ferency
Police Officer William Earl Collins, Jr.
Sergeant Joshua Bartlett

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
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2021 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims # 34108-34443 \$2,371,369.94 Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting next Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
2. There will be a Special Town Council meeting next Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This will be opening the bids for the sidewalk replacement program.
3. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 3, 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:

REPORTS:

- Public Works- The Emergency Response plan is updated and submitted as required by the American water infrastructure grants. If residents see Public works around town we are going to be testing half the valves and the hydrants to make sure everything is working properly. Hopefully by August we will have our website updated with links with updates weekly, daily on everything we are doing in road construction, seasonal programs, mosquitoes, environmental tips of the week and add more information for our residents.
- Police – No Report