

April 5, 2016

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 5, 2016 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Glenn "Bud" Gaby who passed away on this date one year ago.

ROLL CALL:

Larry Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Jim Marker
Pat Schaadt
Tony Hobson

ALSO ATTENDING:

George Jerome - Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance - Chief of Police
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 March 15, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 6077 - 6258 in the amount of \$966,629.30 (nine hundred sixty-six thousand, six hundred twenty-nine dollars and thirty 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. The next council meeting will be Tuesday April 19th at 7:00 p.m. A study session will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will be a council study session on Tuesday April 12th at 5:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to approve a request by Griffith Girl's Softball to have an Opening Day Parade on May 7th, second by Council Member Larry Ballah pending route coordination with the Town. MOTION CARRIED
2. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve a request by Griffith Youth Baseball to have an Opening Day Parade on April 30th, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED
3. Council Member Larry Ballah read a letter from Butler Fairman & Seufert soliciting comments on the Bike Trail Crossing at Main Street
4. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve a request by the Griffith Fire Department to conduct their Annual Boot Drive on April 30th, with an alternate day in May that does not conflict with any other organization, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC - No Report
2. Director of Public Works
 - a. The leaf vacuum truck will be out April 11th -22nd
 - b. Leaves or branches placed in bags or cans will be picked up by the Town
3. Police
 - a. A Taco Meet & Greet fundraiser for the Animal Shelter will take place Friday April 8th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the YMCA. Tickets are \$12.00 and are available at the Police Department, the YMCA or at the door.
4. Fire - No Report
5. Economic Development - No Report
 - a. Pending Items - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:

1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to appoint Steve McDermott as part-time Building Commissioner, second by Council Member Jim Marker. MOTION CARRIED
 - b. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to direct the Clerk-Treasurer to advertise for bids for the collection and disposal of refuse and recyclables, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED
 - c. Council President Rick Ryfa opened a Public Hearing regarding appropriation changes to the 2016 Budget.
 - i. Stating that the changes had been properly advertised, comments were solicited from anyone in attendance.
 - ii. There were no comments and the Public Hearing was closed.
 - d. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Resolution 2016-10: A Resolution Authorizing Additional Appropriations, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
 - e. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Resolution 2016-12: A Resolution Authorizing the Reduction of Non-Levied Appropriations, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED
 - f. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve Resolution 2016-11: A Resolution Approving a Temporary Loan from the Rainy Day Fund to the Park Operating Fund, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED
 - g. Council Member Tony Hobson introduced on 1st reading, Ordinance 2016-13: An Ordinance Amending the Infraction Deferral Program
 - h. Council Member Larry Ballah introduced on 1st reading, Ordinance 2016-14: An Ordinance Amending Fines for Moving Violations and Payments in Lieu of Court
 - i. Council Member Jim Marker moved to approve Resolution 2016-15: A Resolution Recognizing and Approving a Meter Reading Adjustment, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED
 - j. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to approve a request from Chief Mance to purchase a dedicated License Plate Recognition (LPR) vehicle, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Board of Public Works

- a. Board Member George Jerome reviewed the financial position of each utility
 - i. As Clerk-Treasurer, Jerome expressed concern that current rates need to be reviewed for Sewer in anticipation of the debt service required for an anticipated revenue bond.
 - ii. Water rates are currently under review by Umbaugh & Associates

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Terry Schafer, 315 N Jay St spoke about the desirability of preserving the old Library Building at Main and Broad. He suggested that the Town purchase it or impose restrictions on buyers in order to preserve a significant landmark
- Jim Konopasek, 311 W 44th spoke in support of Mr. Schafer's comments and stated the need to preserve Town history. He stated that the building would be an ideal repository of preserved family histories.
- Cecil Wright, 207 N Lafayette suggested that the Historical Society purchase the building and restore it as an Ice Cream Parlor similar to what Dr Egnatz's wife did a number of years ago.
- Council President Ryfa explained the law regarding the purchase of real property and stated that it would prevent the town from purchasing the property. He also stated that the Historical Society is probably not in a position to purchase it without a major source of funding.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p. m.

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF GRIFFITH


JAMES MARKER


LAWRENCE BALLAH


RICK RYFA


PATRICIA SCHAADT


TONY HOBSON


GEORGE N. JEROME
CLERK TREASURER

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 26th at 5:30 p.m.
2. Due to the Primary Election on Tuesday May 3, the next council meeting will be Monday May 2nd 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 5th 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 24th and 25th, 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 30th
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 44th 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. Jerome
George N. Jerome
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

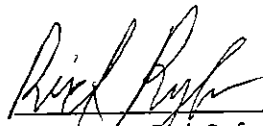
WHEREAS people with fibromyalgia are never completely symptom-free; they are always in pain; this pain impacts every area of their life and others must step up to fill in the voids left when all the patients' efforts are focused on just getting through the day, showing just how much fibromyalgia truly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

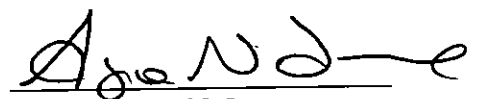
WHEREAS Fibromites Unite, the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association, and other groups around our country have joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness and support - including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment,

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