

February 15, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 15, 2022 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Police Officer John Painter
Sergeant Chris Jenkins

ROLL CALL:

James Marker - Absent
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
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$ 1,605,654.51 (various funds) Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 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 Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, there will be a study session at 6:00 pm. and the meeting will commence at 6:30 pm.
3. The Town Council study session will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Congratulate Mr. Wesley Shafer on his 100th birthday. Council Member Ballah has a certificate of appreciation for Mr. Shafer.

- **Director of 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. **Resolution 2022-08 Fire Truck Purchase:** A Resolution recommending the emergency purchase of a used fire truck for the Fire Department in the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana and all related matters. Council Member Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08 and allow Council President Ryfa or his designee to sign off the purchase agreement, seconded by Council Member Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. **2021-2 Road Resurfacing Project- Bid Award Milestone Contractors:** Last meeting we opened up bids from various contractors, Milestone was the lowest bid, Butler Fairman & Seufert agreed they are the low bid and can do the project properly. Council Member Hobson made a motion to allow Rick Ryfa to enter into an agreement with Milestone Contractors for the \$1,592,749.82 CCMG project, seconded by Council Member Robbins, Motion Carried.
3. **Southeast Griffith Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Study Agreement;** BF&S has presented an agreement not to exceed an amount of \$135,000.00. This is to analyze our water and sanitary sewer mainly on the south end of Town for possible development and throughout the rest of town. This will be a master plan for the town as we grow and age. Council Member Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Ryfa to enter into this agreement with BF&S, seconded by Council Member Robbins, Motion Carried.
4. **Central Park Advisory Committee:** Council President Ryfa stated this is a committee as we go into phase II of improvement projects at Central Park that will include crossing the south end of the path through the middle of the park, improve the current pavilion, the drainage and some other areas, walkway. We will be having some engineering work that's being completed right now. We put a committee together to look at and make some decisions over some of the detail's aesthetics and finishes. Appoint to that committee would be: George Jerome, Tony Tezzerial (who is a Park Board Member), Michelle Velez, and Rich Powell (who is the Superintendent of the Park) and Rick Ryfa. They will make recommendations to the Town Council moving forward.
5. **Hiring of Part-Time Police Social Worker:** Based on the recommendation of the Safety Board, Council Member Robbins made a motion that we approve the hiring of a Part-time Police Social Worker, seconded by Council Member Hobson, Motion Carried.
6. **Bid Opening:** We have received bids for the Trail Head project, that is in the 100 Block of South Broad Street. This has been ongoing for quite a few years. We have received 2 bids:

Reith Riley Construction: \$556,425.03
Milestone North: \$479,455.00

Council Member Ballah made a motion that we present these to our engineering consultants for review and verification that everything is included in these bids and are qualified to do this work, seconded by Council Member Robbins, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. **Sidewalk replacement Program:** on hold due to weather
2. **Airport Advisory Committee:** No Report
3. **Hammond Water Works:** No Report
4. **PD/Town Hall Construction:** No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT:

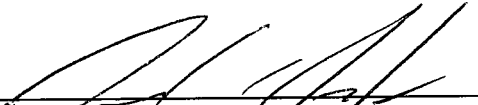
Mark Rucsinski lives on Reder Road, he was here about 5 years ago requesting a variance. He is wondering 5 years later, where are we?


Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have some people that have approached the town about doing some rezoning as well, there are some pretty big parcels, we are looking at figuring out. Most can stay in the residential zoning in certain parts.

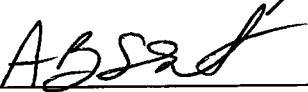
Mark stated he is zoned industrial and would like to be residential for selling in the future.

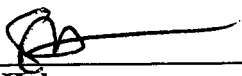
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


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