

March 1, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 1, 2022 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Constable Neil Adams
Police Officer Jorge David Alvarado, Jr.
Sergeant Joshua Caudell

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah - Absent
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer - Absent
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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$977,092.95 (Various funds) Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15, 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 study session on March 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Lake Area Recovery Club Letter of Request – Pavilion Fee Waiver:** Lake Recovery Club is having their annual picnic on Sunday, August 21st from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm., they are asking the Town Council to consider waiving the Park rental fee based on their 501C3 non-profit organization, this is their biggest fundraiser of the year and is a joyous occasion for all who attend. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive their fees for August 21st rental of the pavilion at Central Park, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. **Gary Shakespeare Company Letter of Request-Pavilion Fee Waiver:** The Gary Shakespeare Company which is also a 501C 3 non-profit theater company is requesting permission to waive the fees for July 31st from 5-10 pm. Performance starts at 7 pm and runs 1 ½ - 2 hours, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive their fees for their rental of the pavilion, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
3. **St. Mary's Men's Club- Permission to place banners around town:** Requesting to place banners starting April 16th and will remove them as soon as possible after the event.

Las Vegas night, Saturday, April 30th, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow them to hang banners for their 2-day event, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

4. **We received a letter from Butler, Fairman & Seufert:** Bids were reviewed that were received on February 15th for the Erie Lackawanna Trail Broad Street Trailhead and Alley Improvements, upon review of the bids, Rieth-Riley Construction was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, it is their recommendation that the project be awarded to Rieth Riley for bid price of \$556,453.24. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the notice of award, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is the project that will be in the 100th block of Broad Street, west side and back of the buildings, it will be coming off but including the repaving of the trail, adding a parking lot, demo the wall that is there, nice seating area. Pretty big improvement for that general area, will be starting soon, Motion Carried.

- **Director of Public Works** –. Started tree removal for the sidewalk program, identified trees to be removed that will impact the sidewalk. Reminder water meter is on pace to replace the meters starting April 1st. First shipment is in, will notify residents.
- **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 2022-10 – approving Form of Building Corporation Lease Town Hall Project:** Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, approving various matters in connection with the lease of a Town Hall/Public Safety Facilities Project in the Town, we created a building corporation in order to lease the new Town Hall from the Building Corporation. We received better rates to borrow the money on the Bond. We saved money by forming a building corporation. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion approving Resolution 2022-10, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
2. **Cady Marsh Raker Replacement Design Proposal:** Andy Raab stated basically what this is we have a deep tunnel that was put in to run water out the little Cal, Cady Marsh, we have a rake there that has not worked since roughly 2013, to clean all the debris out and keep that tunnel clean so it doesn't flood. We worked with an engineer to come up with a solution to replace that breaker with an automated system that will keep that clean all the time. We have gone to the commission and requested them to fund 80% of this project, we are looking at a cost that could be about \$1.7 million, our part of that would be about 20%. We would take it to bid if Council approves. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion for the Council or Town Council President to sign the design proposal for Cady Marsh, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
3. **Hubbell, Roth, & Clark Inc. for Professional Services Agreement:** Council Member Jim Marker stated this is what Andy just talked about, where Little Calumet will pick up the majority of the bill which would be \$112,000.00 on this one out of \$140,000.00.

Council Member Jim Marker made a motion that we also enter into this agreement with Hubble, Roth, & Clark, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa said good work to Andy for getting to this point, for those that are not aware this was a federal project that was done quite some time ago using federal funds the Army Corps of engineer oversaw the project. They used their own engineering firm to design the current trash raking system. We have been battling for many years and finally Council Member Jim Marker amended his motion allowing Andy Raab and Town Council to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

4. **PD Hire – Administrative Assistant:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow the hire of an Administrative Assistant, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa stated this would not be an additional person it would be just for short term 60 days, one of our employees will be retiring, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident asked about trees coming down and are they coming down in the order of which sidewalks will be completed. Andy stated all the trees have to come down by end of month. Resident asked how many trees are coming down. Asked what is going on in Central Park with the concrete. Council President stated it will be a patio. Resident asked about the Pillars and fencing. Council President Rick Ryfa explained where the fence would start and end. The Pillars will have electricity. Resident asked if the Town was still recycling. Resident asked requirements for people that own dogs, leash? Commander Martin stated if you have an invisible fence you can have out in your yard but any other time they must be on a leash. Resident stated the town seems to have quite a bit of problems with this at least in her area and in the park, gentleman walks his dog around Central Park, leash is dragging on the ground. Resident asked if there are written rules, Commander Martin stated there is an ordinance.

Council President Rick Ryfa stated we are working on a Welcome package to send to all residents.

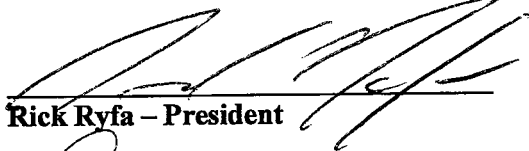
Resident asked about the Golf Course plans etc. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have ordered appraisal and will be putting up for public auction. We hope in 90 days or less will be ready.

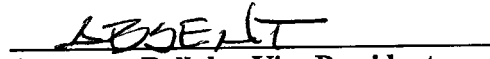
Resident stated he was very disappointed to hear Griffith and Lake County government would have to pay for that rate system that the Army Corp screwed up right from the very start, its going to end up even if it only costs us 50 or 60 thousand dollars that County doesn't have to kick in another 80%, it was not right, it was not working from the beginning. Council President Rick Ryfa stated a lot of that money got reimbursed. Council Member Tony Hobson stated he agreed, just the risk our guys going in to clean it up. We fought that battle for 8-9 years and sometimes you have to cut your losses, Andy did a great job going and getting us 80% paid for. The amount of legal fees we would have to spend. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we held out as long as we possibly

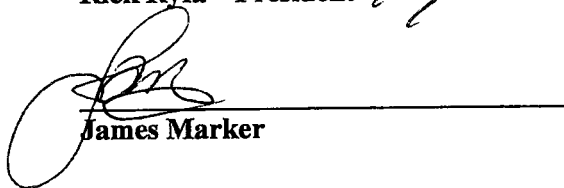
could on signing off on the project because as the local sponsor of it as well, the town had to sign off and accept the project from the Feds. Then we got to the point where we had some federal that we needed and didn't have a choice.


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 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