

March 15, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Senior Police Officer Robert Duran
Corporal Benjamin Cooper
Police Officer Jake Reed
Police Officer Caleb Oglvie

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson Absent
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner Absent
Sheri Bradtke McNeil – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$816,321.96 (Various funds) Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5, 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 Water Board meeting in conjunction with the Town Council Meeting April 5, 2022
3. There will be a Sanitary Board Meeting this Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 1:30 pm.
4. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 6:45 pm A study session will take place at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

- **Director of Public Works** – No Report
- **Police** – No Report
- **Fire** – Sunday, March 20th at 2pm, station 33 ceremony for our new engine.
- **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 2022-11 – Transferring Monies:** Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the transfer of \$4,951.05 from Bullet Proof Vest to Federal Asset Seizures, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
2. **Ordinance 2022-12 Amending Chapter 78 Utilities, Article II, Water Division 1 Generally, section 78-37; and Division 2, Connection and use, sections 78-58 and 78-59.** Council Member Larry Ballah stated 2 items that are changing, Section 78-58 Meter readings; billing, Section 78-59 Basis for monthly billing. Section 78-37 Right of entry. Council Member Larry Ballah stated this is the first reading no further action needed.
3. **Ordinance 2022-14 Amending Chapter 78 Utilities, Article 1, Backflow:** An Ordinance Amending Town Code Chapter 78 – Utilities Article I In General, Section 78-38 Entitled Shut off Mechanism; Backflow protection devise required repealing all Ordinances and Town code sections, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith, and all matters related hereto, Council Member James Marker stated this is the first reading no further action needed.
4. **Agreement-Central Park Improvement Project-Phase 2** Agreement between the Town of Griffith and Butler Fairman & Seufert, Inc, regarding the Central Park Improvement Project Phase 2, the fees not to exceed \$63,200.00 unless a modification the agreement is approved in writing by the owner. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to give authority to Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the agreement with Butler, seconded by Council Member Council Member James Marker, Motion Carried.
5. **Proclamation-Disabilities Awareness Month:** Whereas, the month of March 2022, has been designated as “Disability Awareness Month” to celebrate and recognize people with disabilities by the Governor of the State of Indiana; Council Member James Marker stated this is signed this day March 15, 2022.
Council President Rick Ryfa recognized member from the School Board and Superintendent, Leah introduced Miss Melissa Dickleman, an educator. Ms. Pondo and her son Ryan.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. **Sidewalk replacement Program:** Has started this year.
2. **Airport Advisory Committee:** No Report
3. **Hammond Water Works:** We can remove, the bill has been paid. We will be introducing rate increases. Rate study completed. Presenting at the first meeting in April.
4. **PD/Town Hall Construction:** In the design phase, hoping to start construction this summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn: Post office delivery. Certified letter for public hearing BZA, regarding Trail Creek. Feb. 21, received the letter on March 2nd. Water Pressure low in Trail Creek. Loose dog continues, traumatizes neighbors, owner does not live in neighborhood.

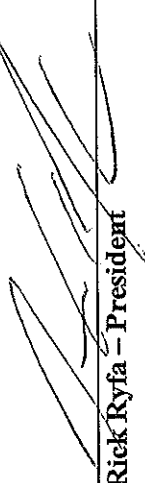
Resident: asked about new Town Hall/PD, solar panels for the new facility. Central Park phase I still in progress? What is Phase II, Street light at Broad and Main, no left turn. A lot of garbage around town.

Colfax lots of garbage, garbage trucks leaving garbage on ground.

Leah: April 2nd, Saturday, Noon to 1:30, behind the YMCA, over 3000 eggs. They will sound off at 12:15.

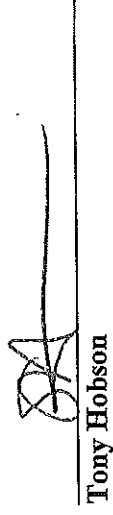
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

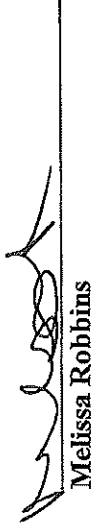
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa - President


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

ABSENT
James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer