

April 19, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 19, 2022, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

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
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$681,862.22(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, May 3, 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.
Council President Rick Ryfa stated there will not be a Town Council Meeting May 3, 2022, due to the election. Council will check with Clerk's office regarding appropriations.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting next Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:45.
3. There will be a Storm Water Board meeting this Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 1:15 pm.
4. There will be a Sanitary Board meeting this Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 1:30 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Griffith Fire Department Boot Drive:** Requesting to do a boot drive with proceeds going to the Hoosier Burn Camp on Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 9 am to 1 pm.
Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the Boot Drive, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. **YMCA – Yoga in the Park:** Request from the YMCA on Monday's, starting June 6th thru August 8th, from 6 pm to 7pm. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion that we waive any fees for them to reserve the Pavilion on those dates, and if they need any tables, they will need to move themselves and put them back, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
3. Council President Rick Ryfa had spoken to our State Representative Mike Andrade a week or two ago in regard to trees, since we have had quite a few taken down due to the projects going on in town. Mr. Andrade was able to secure some trees for our town

residents. Council President introduced Mike Andrade. Mr. Andrade had received 100 trees and would be sharing with the Town of Highland 50 and the Town of Griffith 50. He will be bringing them to public works. Mr. Andrade thanked the Town for all they have done. Council President stated we will be announcing distribution. First come first serve, please call Public Works at 219-924-3838. Each resident will be required to plant their own tree.

- **Director of Public Works – Sidewalk program, slightly behind schedule due to weather over all moving along well. The water meter replacement started this week, thirty-four houses had their meters replaced on Monday, and 50 houses on Tuesday. A zone map posted on our website showing which zones are targeted first, letters were sent out to call in and schedule, we are using robot calls to request appointments be scheduled online with NECCO. We are shooting for 90 meters next week. Rolling along, building momentum to complete by end of October. Any questions call Public Works.**
- **Police – No Report**
- **Fire – No Report**
- **Building Commissioner – No Report**
- **Finance Report – No Report**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Resident asked regarding the meters being replaced, is it the whole or part of the meter. Andy Raab stated the whole meter is being replaced. Council President stated it was cost effective to replace the whole meter, the device from the street was not giving accurate readings. The funding for this project is from the American Rescue Plan not costing the town anything. Resident asked where the zones are posted. Council President stated the newsletters will be going out, are at the printer now

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Solar Panel Farm Bid Recommendation: On April 12, 2022, the Town of Griffith received two bids for the Solar array procurement and installation for the Griffith Lift Station, by the old Golf course: Bids as follows: 1. Midwestern Electric \$561,582.00, 2. Envocore \$428,339.00. Telamon's assessment is there is no significant difference between the bidders. Telamon recommended the award to Envocore in the amount of \$428,339.00, Council Member Larry Ballah recommended that we accept Telamon Energy recommendation to award the contract to Envocore, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried. Council President acknowledged Bruce, from Telamon, in the audience and asked him to give a quick minute to update construction. Bruce stated he will begin working with the Clerk's office, Town Council and the Town Attorney, working on contracts AIA signed by next meeting. Bruce stated they were incredibly happy with the bids. The one was 30% higher, we anticipated the cost to come in at \$440,000.00 and the winning bid came in at \$428,339.00. Council President stated for those that are not aware, the solar farm will power out of the Griffith Sanitary plant. Right now, the electric bills are approximately in excess \$100 - 200K, this would be paid off within 8 years (the Solar Farm)**
2. **BF&S Change Order – Central Park: Additional sidewalk grades, handrail. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorize this change order in the amount of \$31,012.74, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.**

3. LPA Consulting Agreement: This is in reference to a project that we put out for INDOT subsidation. It is 80/20, INDOT will pay 80% and the Town will pick up the 20%. This is for the engineering of Avenue H and Broad Street. We are looking at a 2-3-year design process to determine the best way to solve some of the traffic congestion and we are speaking with Lake County to be a participant since they do own a portion of that road. This engineering contract is for \$399,715.00 and this is with BF&S, INDOT will be picking up 80% of this bill. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to enter into this agreement with BF&S, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President stated this will be Federal Dollars, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS.

1. Sidewalk replacement program: Mr. Raab updated
2. PD/Town Hall Construction: Design Phase, the cost of materials has skyrocketed over the last year, we are working on getting the project completed at the original budget, reducing some of the space located on the Town Hall side, and getting close. Will be meeting this Friday for the final numbers on the construction side. See where we go from there.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

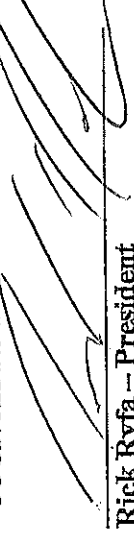
Kyle Obermeyer: congestion on South Lafayette issue with traffic, 50-60 miles per hour, cut through with the trains. Explore speed bumps. Will address at Safety Meeting.

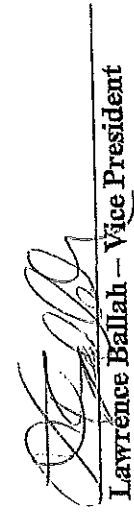
Rose Johnson: Thank you to Andy Raab, he responded back quickly about the sidewalk timeline.

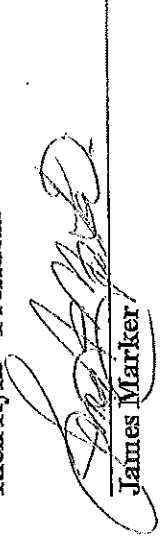
Gilbert: asked about Kmart property any update about the building.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

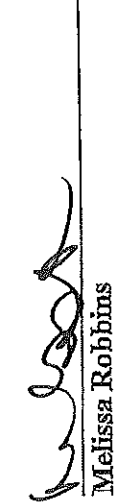
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

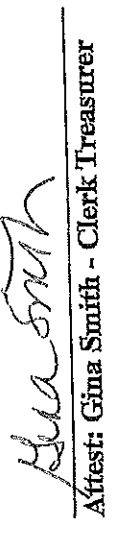

Rick Ryfa – President


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer