

May17, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 17, 2022 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Police Officer Roy Andrew Barr
Deputy Sheriff Nicholas D. Weist
Sergeant Nicholas W. Tullier
Deputy Sheriff Jody Cash

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 19, 2022 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$4,548,113.35(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, June 7, 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 Sanitary Board meeting this Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 1:30 pm.
3. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 6:15 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Park Full of Art** – We have the annual Park Full of Art will be held July 16th and 17th in Central Park. The hours are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Requesting permission to put up banners along Broad Street and other locations around town. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve them hanging banners two weeks prior to this event, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. **IZAACK WALTON** – Food truck fest Banners: Request from Izaak Walton food truck fest is being held on June 11, 2022 requesting to hang up a couple of banners around town, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve this for two weeks prior to their event, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
- 3.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – CCMG road work for the contract will be starting May 30, 2022 with completion roughly middle of August
- **Police** –One item correspondence from residents about tall grass, we are aware of that. We have one part-time code enforcement officer which fills our needs about 95 percent of the year. The first month we will be identifying finding out the reasons, working with residents to address those issues, repeat offenders will be cited. We are working to address the issues and apologize for the inconvenience.
- **Fire** – Our annual inspection and awards ceremony is this Saturday at 4pm at Central Station
- **Building Commissioner** – No Report
- **Finance Report** – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance 2022-23 Amending Town Code Ch. 14-Building and Building Regulations, Article II:** Council Member Jim Marker read the first reading for Ordinance 2022-23, this consolidates all the numerous Ordinances concerning concrete forms, placing, protection standards, thickness. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is the first reading and will be up for final adoption at any subsequent Council meetings.
2. **2022 Road Construction Bid Opening:** Council President Rick Ryfa stated we received two bids, first one from Reith - Riley, stated there will not be any single dollar amount, these were bid prices per work that would be done whether the asphalt, concrete or something similar. Council Member Larry Ballah read the first bid (Reith-Riley) as asphalt surface per ton is \$65.00, asphalt surface delivered any point within the town \$81.00, intermediate levels of asphalt \$60.00 and \$76.00 delivered. The asphalt base \$60.00 delivered to a spot, \$76.00. There are 29 items, most concern is the asphalt paving. Next bid from Milestone: Asphalt surfacing per ton \$70.00, the asphalt service delivered to a spot in town is \$80.00, intermediate to asphalt \$57.00 per ton, intermediate delivery to a specific site in town \$67.00 per ton, this is for milling for asphalt for treatment of the subgrade, there is concrete work. They look pretty competitive. We will turn this over to our engineer for review and make a recommendation, Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to turn this over to the Public Works Director and the engineer for review and recommendation, Council Member Jim Marker made the motion, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, motion carried.
3. **Sidewalk Replacement Program:** Council President Rick Ryfa asked for an update from Public Works Director Andy Raab. Andy stated we have two contracts (A & B) currently underway. Contract B is basically the area from the railroad tracks to the west that you see being done and worked out, now Contract A will be between Colfax and the railroad tracks, from Ridge Road and working our way towards town, we are up to St. Mary's, and then pushing now towards Griffith High School and focusing to get a priority around Central Park. Up to Central Park from Ridge Road we are probably a little over 90% complete, as we continue to work our way around the High School and towards Main Street on that Contract. Contract A

we started basically at Main Street working our way towards 45th Street. From Elm Street to Lake Street we are over 80% complete. This is the majority of the sidewalk report at this time. The CCMG project we have going we have several streets from Elm to 45th, along Wadsworth we will coordinate our sidewalk work there and the CCMG to minimize disruption to anyone that lives there.

4. **Water Meter Replacement Update:** Council President Rick Ryfa asked Public Works Director Andy Raab for an update. Mr. Raab stated water meters as of yesterday 1,358 have been replaced. Almost 25% of the towns meters. In Zone 1 we had started and about 70% complete. Zone 2 we are looking at starting middle of or early June. The maps are on the website also information on water bills, the town news letter. We continue to re-emphasize by making calls, hand outs. We hope to complete by October 1st. If someone has any issues on scheduling we are installing Monday thru Thursday and then on certain days once a month Friday and Saturday for residents schedules. We are asking residents to call and communicate with NECCO, we will make sure they get in and get it done. It is extremely important we get this done and the nice thing is the meters that are done we are able to read from Town Hall.

5. **BZA – Findings of Facts Doggie Daycare Facility:** On April 18th of this year there was a public hearing with the Board of Zoning Appeals concerning a petitioner who wanted to seek a variance to allow a puppy dog care at their home, up to a maximum of eight dogs and there was a hearing and some remonstrators and comments were made during the meeting and the BZA attorney provided the Town Council with findings of fact and the BZA actually voted to send an unfavorable recommendation to the Town Council as they did not see where the facts of the case really required a variance for the particular use and just reading two of the items from the statement of facts, the petitioners have not shown that the need for use variances arises from some condition that is peculiar to the property. It is a house and residential area and not set up for dogs because that is not in zoning, and the petitioners have not shown that a strict application of Town Code of Griffith which pertains with that zoning will constitute an unnecessary hardship due to the property not being properly zoned for this doggy daycare. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we accept the Board of Zoning appeals unfavorable recommendation and we deny the use of the special use variance, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa stated just to be clear someone is proposing to open a dog care facility in their home, Council Member Larry Ballah stated for up to eight dogs and part of the concern was the noise of the dogs barking, keeping the yard clean, it was brought up at the BZA meeting that the Town is not opposed to a doggy day care business just not in a residential area is what this really comes down to, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. Sidewalk Replacement Program: Discussed under new business.
2. PD/Town Hall Construction: Working on the design for construction

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Rucinski trying to get a letter to change zoning, Council President Rick Ryfa to meet after to get his address and will get the letter out to him.

Resident asked to meet with Rick Ryfa after the meeting

Resident asked about redoing the bike trail, right across the baseball field at the high school there are apartments and there is a path that cuts through there and its blacktop and it is a mess, she was wondering if the town was responsible because it is fenced on the sides. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we can take a look at it. Andy Raab stated it is a right of way.

She asked about the Golf carts, she stated she read all the minutes and they have to have their rules. She's driven behind someone that is in a golf cart and ther was an infant, a toddler and a couple of kids and parents. Chief Mance stated Golf carts do not meet the same standards that are required by the federal government. Sounds like some of the things she is addressing are illegal by our Ordinance some are not. Chief stated we have not had any issues but we can re-evaluate. Council President Rick Ryfa stated in defense for our police they cannot be everywhere and every place.

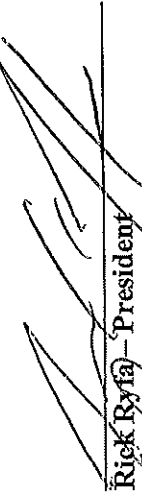
Resident asked about a lot owned by the VFW not cutting grass/ debris, animals such as Raccoons and skunks. He would like to purchase the lot but the VFW, but they use it to pile their snow. Chief was not aware of the situation but will look into it. Resident is still interested in purchasing.

Resident asked with the sidewalks being replaced will the curbs be replaced? Council President Rick Ryfa stated in very rare instances, in 2014-2015 time frame we repaved most of the town we had a lot of curbs that needed replacement, if there is a special circumstance you can let Public Works know but in general theres no curbs being replaced.

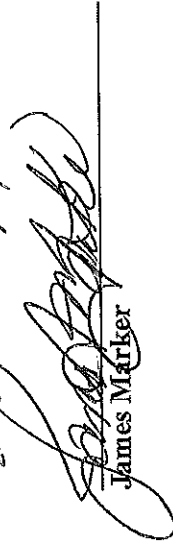
Resident stated there is a tree that is buckling the sidewalk, Council President Rick Ryfa stated to call Public Works 924-3838, we will not be cutting down trees until the Fall on a case by case scenario and we will notify residents as we get towards the summer if there are some trees that are hazardous to or infringe on the sidewalk , typically on public easement, unless its right up against the sidewalk on your property.

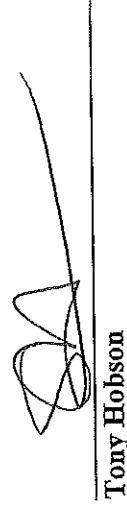
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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