

June 21, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the June 21, 2022, meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Police Officer Christopher Nicholas Fariello
Police Officer Kennis Winston Croom
Deputy First Class Glenn R. Hilliard
Corporal Michael Paredes
Police Officer Joseph Santana

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins Absent

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police Absent
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner
Sheri Bradtke McNeil – Attorney for the Town Absent
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 June 7, 2022, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$2,530,999.89 (Various funds) Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, after discussion, Council Member Jim Marker amended his motion to approve the claims and withdrew the claim for Midwestern Electric, seconded by Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 19, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **GHS Cheer – Pop up event:** Request on July 9th, during car wash, small businesses bring their goods to sell, not many businesses, Council Member Jim Marker stated this is not a Town Council event this is Griffith Cheer event and also to mention if there is any food available, they will need to comply with Lake County Health Department standards. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion approving Griffith Cheer having this event, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
2. Road Closure-Broad Street will be closed from Pine Street to Oak Street starting at 12 pm on Friday, June 24, 2022, throughout the weekend. This is for the annual Blues Festival.
3. Main Street and Wiggs (Railroad) Road Closure for 2 weeks, starting July 5th - July 22nd for crossing repairs.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – Water Meters discuss later in this meeting with a Rep from NECO, CCMG want to remind everyone over by Wadsworth the sidewalks will be starting end of this month and then the roadwork on those streets will be the end of July.
- **Police** – No Report
- **Fire** – No Report
- **Building Commissioner** – Regarding Franklin a couple of items: Maintenance with the HVC system complete failure, approximately \$6K to replace. Precision representative was scheduled to be at the meeting but due to the weather they are extremely busy, hoping to be at our next meeting. We have a list of items that need to be completed at the Franklin Center, totally approximately \$50K, again the HVC to bring it up to the 1973 standards.
- **Finance Report** – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **NECO Water Meter Replacement Update:** Austin Lucas, Project Manager, gave a brief overview of where we are with the replacements. Zone 1: we are 92% completed, Zone 2: 51%, Zone 3: 7% completed. Tremendous amount of help from Andy's department including Kelly. Trying to get these scheduled. We are ahead of schedule. This was a big step for the water infrastructure. This new system is going to come with all kinds of bells and whistles that will be nice for the whole community including detection and water loss prevention. Austin asked for any questions about the project. Resident asked if this is another drive by, Austin stated it is not there will be antennas up on the water towers and this will pick up your readings. Council President Rick Ryfa asked if residents will be able to look at their meter on their phones, Austin wasn't sure about the phones. Andy stated we are looking towards that, and it is a goal, if we see a leak, we will have the ability to look and flag us to let us know your usage is up and we can call the resident and let them know. We will have more information for example if a resident is out of town or on vacation and suddenly, a pipe burst, and you are not home we will be able to detect. Andy expressed if you have not scheduled, please do so, doesn't matter which zone you are in. Council President stated we will announce at the next meeting regarding what the penalties would be for those who don't comply and get the numbers, we do not want to shut anyone's water off that is the last thing we want to do. Council Member Tony Hobson stated anyone with a meter that is an inch or smaller please schedule now even commercial accounts, everyone needs to get this done.
2. **Resolution No. 2022-25:** This is the transfer Appropriations from various departments of the Town of Griffith, money going from recycling to recycling (different fund) Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing these three transfers to be approved by and signed by the Town Council, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. Sidewalk Replacement Program: Moving along, we have a meeting coming up for an update. As far as the landscaping to plant the grass seed its obvious it is not growing in the heat, the weeds are, the contractor will be coming back once the weather cools, we do ask everyone that has gotten their sidewalk replaced and have planted seed please water, the town or the contractor will not be watering.
 - a. Construction update:
 - b. Restoration
2. PD/Town Hall Construction: No Update
3. Water Meter Replacement Program: Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jackie Braun: Central Park new pavilion noticed the new bricks were taken out, Council President Rick Ryfa stated the contractor used the wrong sand and at their expense

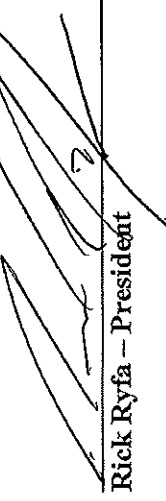
Diane Jerome asked about how loud the music is going to be this weekend as loud as Friday. Council President Rick Ryfa stated probably not, the individual running the sound had it loud. She asked in the event that it does become overpowering what are her options, this year is worse than before, she is not asking to not have music, the music this year has been overpowering, Council President Rick Ryfa stated he would have the sound guy to lower. She asked if it was too loud who should she call? 911.

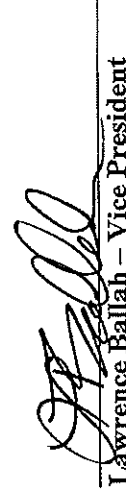
Jackie Braun asked about the Friday night functions, what kind of profit margin does the Town make? Council President Rick Ryfa stated depends on the evening, the first week we sold about \$15K worth of beer and our expenses about 4-5K. Our goal is to break even year after year. The whole purpose is to put out a venue that one, the residents like and it really has put Griffith on the map for bringing people to our town. Many people have stated they moved to Griffith because of the events. Council Member Tony Hobson stated that there are many communities do events for a loss, people come from everywhere to our events.

Laura Gaby asked what is going on by the railroad tracks, Council President Rick Ryfa stated that is the Trail head project off the bike trail. Several things that will accomplish the trail is going to come up to the back of the businesses, there will be a platform out there for people to come off the bike trail and sit and greatly expanded the parking, which is one of the biggest issues we have of growing that part of downtown there is no

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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

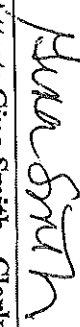

Rick Ryfa – President


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer