

August 16, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the August 16, 2022, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Sergeant Matthew Fishman  
Deputy Sheriff Andrew Peery  
Deputy Sheriff Ned Byrd

ROLL CALL:

James Marker - Absent  
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 - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2022, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$1,736,452.86 (Various funds) Council Member Larry Ballah 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, September 6, 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. **Boy Scout Fall Harvest Festival-Request for donation for advertising and to place banners throughout Town.** Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to give them a donation of \$500.00 towards advertising and allow them to hang banners throughout the Town for 14 days, which is our set Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – No Report
- **Police** – Annual Public Safety August 27<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 pm.
- **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. **Ordinance No. 2022-30:** An Ordinance amending Chapters 30 and 78 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Griffith, Indiana as from time to time amended. Council Member Larry Ballah stated this is the first reading no action required this evening. Council President Rick Ryfa stated at the last meeting we had an individual from Reedy Financial give a presentation on the rate increase. This is triggered by the Hammond Water Works rate increase to the Town of Griffith, which was a significant increase.
2. **Resolution No. 2022-32: Allowing an appointment to the Unsafe Building Commission:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we continue this to the next meeting, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
3. **Ordinance No. 2022-33: Setting Certain Rental Fees:** An Ordinance establishing rental policy, fee schedule, penalties and regulations for usage of and access to Town -Owned 11' X 17' LED video wall unit and all matters related hereto, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is the first reading, all in favor as read. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to suspend the rules to grant final approval on this Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Roll Call taken all in favor Council Member Jim Marker Absent, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion that we approve Ordinance No. 2022-33, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
4. **Resolution No. 2022-34: Selling VIP tickets:** A Resolution authorizing the Town to sell VIP tickets for the Town Rock N Rail Music and street festival, Event to be held Thursday, September 1, 2022, through Sunday, September 4, 2022. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-34, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
5. **Resolution No. 2022-35: Repayment Plans:** A Resolution establishing a Water Bill Arrearage Repayment Plan, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to pass Resolution 2022-35, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
6. **121 S. Lafayette Street Griffith IN:** We have a request and have had several of these over the years for some of our older pieces of property, this regards to the property 121 S Lafayette St. it is a home that is for sale, sits on a 50 foot wide lot, our requirements for homes now in our Ordinance is the lot has to be 70 feet wide, the house is not up to code and US Bank is requesting that we provide a letter stating that if they provide a mortgage for the buyer and if the home needs to be rebuilt on the same lot same footprint without any type of penalties or punishment. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we allow Council for the Planning Commission Bob Schwerd write a letter to US Bank stating the Town will in fact allow the rebuilding of the house if something happens even though it is not conforming, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

### PENDING ITEMS:

1. **Sidewalk replacement program:** Moving along good. We are on par for the timelines for this year and under budget.
  - a. Construction Update:
  - b. Restoration:
2. **PD/Town Hall Construction:** This ties into a couple of things, have had some issues at Franklin Center over the years and months, Mr. McDermott has been overseeing the

building. Mr. McDermott gave a summary: Constant HVAC issues, last major remodel was 1973. Memorial weekend there was a line that froze and burst, the water line part of the boiler system and it was on the second floor, clean up was thousands of dollars and repairs would be thousands of dollars. Rick Ryfa stated we had engineers go through the building to see the possibility of re-purposing. We are waiting for so the final reports, the thoughts area with new PD / Town Hall that we have proposed building with the costs that escalated so high for the new construction we could have significant savings by utilizing this current building, we would have a foundation and need to modernize a bit. We should know more in the next couple of weeks whether this is a feasible option. It certainly appears on the surface that we can save 40 to 50 percent of the total construction cost by using this building, if in fact it can be utilized on the inside. We should know something by the next meeting and obviously we will inform all our tenants as we move forward.

3. **Water meter replacement program:** Moving along very well, the first part is complete. Second phase, about sixty left. If you are in phase 2 or 3, please contact NECO and arrange for your meter change, we don't want to get to the point where the water has to be turned off, as we get into the critical third phase when the contractor leaves the town we will be in a position if those in phase 3 did not complete likely the water will be shut off as well. There will not be a contractor here anymore, so particularly important for everyone to please cooperate.

#### **Public Comment:**

Alan: regarding sidewalks, will gaps get filled in, will call Public Works

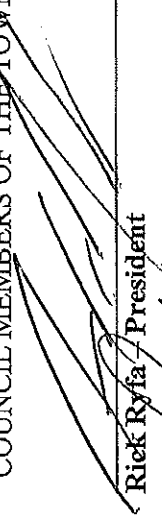
Diane Jerome: Gaps on both sides of sidewalk, no dirt, estimated water bill for outside meter, Loud music in Central Park percussion is too loud, town is violating Ordinance, proud to see our officers help an individual jump his car.

Carol Bezat: Concrete guys working in the heat, are very cordial excellent job.

Resident: Path on side of High School baseball field, will get location to Public Works.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.**

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

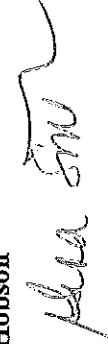
  
Rick Ryfa - President

  
Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer