

September 6, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 6, 2022, meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Ned P. Byrd
Police Officer Cesar “Echy” Echaverry
Sergeant Robert Blaine Swartz
Constable Deborah Martinez-Garibay

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 August 16, 2022, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$4,208,583,986 (Various funds) Council Member Jim Maker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting along with Plan Commission and Redevelopment Commission will meet simultaneous on Tuesday, September 13, 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. **Fright Noise .5K Run:** Sunday, October 30, 2022, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve contingent upon Chief Mance review and approval, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
2. **Request to place event signs – Out of Darkness Walk:** Request to place signs for the American Society for Suicide Prevention, the event is October 2, 2022, at Wicker Park. Signs placed would be at the new Trailhead parking lot on Broad, one on the bike trail crossover at Main, (North side) one at the crossover on Cline, one near the Wiggs crossover by the High School and a final one by the trailhead on 45th. Per our Ordinance, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion that we allow them to put the signs out two weeks prior, which would be September 18th until October 2nd, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works – CCMG** projects have started
- **Police – No Report**

- **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. **Griffith High School request for fireworks display Friday, September 9th for football game:** Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we grant the Griffith High School request for the fireworks display, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
2. **Fire Dept. requesting to do a fundraiser boot drive Sat. Sept 17th with a rain date of Sept. 24th:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion granting the request to have to have such boot drive, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
3. **Ordinance No. 2022-30:** Council Member Tony Hobson stated this is an Ordinance amending Chapters 30 and 78 of the Municipal code of the Town of Griffith, Indiana as from time to time amended, at the previous meeting we read it fully, this is for some of the charges for our Municipal Water, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we approve Ordinance No. 2022-30, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.
4. **Ordinance 2022-36; Additional Appropriations: American Rescue Plan (2406) 1,819,815.78,** Council Member Jim Marker read the Ordinance, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah Roll Call taken all in favor, rules suspended, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion for Ordinance No 2022-36 for additional appropriations, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
5. **Opening Bids Central Park Phase 2:** Council Member Melissa Robbins opened the first bid from Larson -Danielson Construction, Council Member Larry Ballah read the total cost of their bid of \$752,808.47, Council President asked if that was the total with all the addendums? Council President stated we will go with the base prices. Council Member Melissa Robbins opened the next bid from Precision Builders, Council Member Larry Ballah read the bid \$652,651.00, they have four alternates, first alternate \$129,200.00, second alternate \$99,975.00, third alternate \$70,360.00 fourth alternate \$184,900.00, total price \$1,137,086.00. Council Member Melissa Robbins opened the next bid from Gariup Construction, Council Member Larry Ballah read the bid \$699,500.00, alternate one \$25,000.00 alternate two, no bid, alternate three, no bid. For Larson – Danielson Construction the alternates are alternate one \$152,625.32, alternate two \$132,147.24 alternate three \$74,955.75, alternate four \$187,096.40. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to submit these bids to our engineers for review and recommendation as well as our legal team, Council Member Larry Ballah so moved, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. **Sidewalk replacement program:**
 - a. Construction Update: Contract B issues to the west of the bike trail to the east the railroad tracks North River Road to the South Ave H that Contract B is 75% complete and moving along the only problem were running into now and this relates to Contract

A and B is there is a concrete shortage. Cline Avenue is the next big part of the contract. Contract A were further behind at 50% completed. Rex was the contractor that worked under Milestone, which had to pull out of the project to do other work plus the concrete shortage.

b. Restoration:

2. **PD/Town Hall Construction:** The new building that we have proposed on site here is on hold, we are looking at alternatives, looking at the Franklin Center as a possibility, still waiting for final numbers from our engineers and architects, initially it is certainly much less than what a new construction would be. Saving all the dollars on the foundation and the exterior walls. Looking for our options, keeping the costs low.

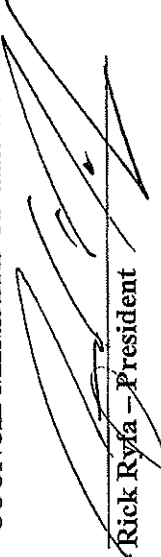
3. **Water meter replacement program:**

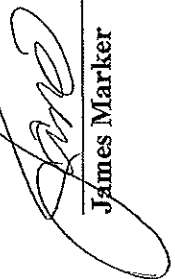
Public Comment:

Sam Fies son lives in Griffith with his mother, in June a town worker picked up his son in his truck brought him to his office, tried to contact Mr. Raab he stated he got nowhere, filed police report, wanted to know why it is allowed for a town employee to babysit. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this may be more of a civil issue between Mr. Fies and the party involved. Chief Mance stated there is a police report on file and there is no criminal action to investigate. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is not something that we will be discussing in public at a public meeting. We do not comment on third party accusations.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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


Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Lawrence Ballan – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins

Attest: Gina Smith – Clerk Treasurer