

September 20, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 20, 2022, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Randall Koleski
Deputy Sheriff Marshall Samuel Ervin, Jr.
Police Officer Dillon Michael Vakoff
Police Officer Lloyd “Mike” Todd
Police Officer Seara Burton

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins - Absent

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 September 6, 2022, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$2,813,962.09 (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 will be on October 4, 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. Fall Harvest Craft Festival – September 24th and 25th at Central Park Hosted by Boy Scout Troop 264.
2. Town Wide Garage Sale – September 30th – October 2nd Hosted by: Imagine registering your address, please email info@imaginegriffith.org.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – No Report
- **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. **Interlocal Government Agreement:** Between the Town of Griffith and the Griffith Public Schools. Whereas the Town desires to provide a Town of Griffith Police Officer to the School District to serve in the capacity as School Resource Officer, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we allow our President to sign this agreement on behalf of the Town, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. **Resolution 2022-37 A** Resolution to Transfer Appropriations: Whereas there is a need to transfer monies from various funds to the Local Roads and Bridges Fund for the sole purpose of establishing the matching funds for the Local Roads and Bridges Grant (LR&B), also known as the Community Crossing Matching Grant. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing approval of Resolution 2022-37, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
3. **Ordinance 2022-38 Appropriations and Tax Rates:** Council Member Tony Hobson stated there will be a public meeting in October. This is a go ahead to introduce Ordinance No. 2022-38. Council President Rick Ryfa stated as we do every year there are uncertainties going into the 1782's we receive at the beginning of the year, we typically advertise higher than we anticipate will be approved just to make sure we have everything covered in case there are any issues over the next couple of months.
4. **General Services Agreement – BF&S-Main Street Stormwater Outlet & Ave D & E Stormwater Study:** Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal to the Town of Griffith for providing services related to storm water evaluation for the upcoming Main Street Improvements (Wood Street to Colfax) and the Ave D & E area afflicted by recent flooding concerns (Broad Street from RR tracks to Ave H) Upon notification to proceed by October 7th, the Main street Storm Sewer Evaluation can be completed by November 30, 2022, and the Avenue D & E Evaluation can be completed by March 31, 2023. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing Town Council President Rick Ryfa and Director of Public Works Andy Raab to sign off, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Council Member Tony Hobson stated for the record the total is \$16,500.00 for the work, Motion Carried.
5. **Change Order No. 3 – BF&S Reder Road Water Main:** On September 16, 2022, there was a Reder Road Water Main change order number three and the total for the change order is \$120,000.00, there were four different items that needed to be changed. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Change order number three on the Reder Road project, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS:

1. **Sidewalk replacement program:**
 - a. Construction Update: Due to concrete shortage we have not gotten a lot done in the last week, been focusing on the restoration and we will be getting a couple of crews started again next week and back on track. Cline Avenue will be our next big area focused on getting completed.
 - b. Restoration:
2. **PD/Town Hall Construction:**
3. **Water meter replacement program:** We are at less than fifty to be replaced. Neco is now done with their contractor remaining balance will be replaced by Public Works Department. Council President Rick Ryfa stated a huge thank you to the residents in town that was a key to the success.

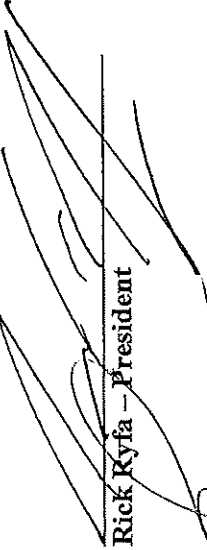
Council President Rick Ryfa stated before we close while all the dust is still settling on the RNR festival we've had our most successful event to date. Big Thank you to all the Departments, Public Works, Fire Department, Police, Building Department, everyone for all their help. We had at least 150 volunteers that helped make this a success and record crowds, record sales and 99.9% of all the feedback was very positive. It was great and makes the Town look very good.

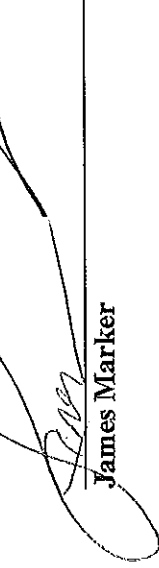
Public Comment:

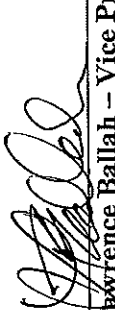
Rose Johnson asked about the sidewalks, hers will be completed next year. She asked about 39th Ave park, was asking about playground equipment, looks nice, there is a little castle there and she stated there seems to be a teenage girl that thinks she can go in there and smoke something. Chief Mance stated he was just notified by Mr. Diamond and that Mr. Diamond was actually out there and saw the girls, there will be extra patrols.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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


Rick Kyfa – President


James Marker


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith – Clerk Treasurer