

**November 15, 2022**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 15, 2022, meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: NONE**

**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 November 1, 2022, minutes, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Various Funds \$724,517.11, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve as read, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 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, also during that Town Council Meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a public meeting regarding the new skateboard Park and other improvements at TOT Park.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. Study session at 6:15, Meeting at 6:30 pm.

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**REPORTS:**

- **Director of Public Works** – Sidewalk update contract A is about 55 % complete, Contract B 90% complete, Leaf Vac is 1 day behind off current schedule.
- **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. Advertisement for Bids: Description of work includes sidewalk and driveway installation pavement removal sidewalk removal curb and gutter excavation for the sidewalk removal restoration bathroom and pad and other is required to complete the bathroom improvements in Central Park, this will be advertised December 20, 2022, bids will be opened and read and the Town Council meeting, Council Member Larry Ballah made the motion for permission to advertise, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
2. Public Hearing – Petition to Vacate an Alley at Cline and Columbia: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to accept the petition to review and address at the next Town Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
3. Articles of Agreement-Teamsters Local Union No. 142: This is the 2023 Articles of Agreement through 2026 with the Teamsters Local 142, Council Member Tony Hobson asked our Public Works Director to expand, Andy Raab explained the Contract is up and any negotiations with Teamsters for Public Works employees, we came to an agreement and four years, the big changes are wages, the first year is four percent after that it's wage reopeners for every year after. We are happy to say that we have come to an agreement and it and has been ratified by the Union. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept the Articles of agreement as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Rick Ryfa thanked Mr. Raab as well as the members from our Public Works on working on negotiations as well as their PDA were very good to work with and come to a fair agreement, Motion Carried.

## **PENDING ITEMS: NONE**

1. **PD/Town Hall Construction:** On temporary hold for at least 12 months or longer cost escalated from 10 million to 15 million. Relook in 2024

## **Public Comment:**

Kathy Rusken: sidewalks in park, asked about Vacate  
Bree: asked about purchase property  
Kim Rausch: sidewalk at Jay and 39th  
Joanne Keck: Milestone, anyone following them, curbs  
Emily Connor: St. Mary's Lafayette shut down 7am to 4pm. How did they get permission,  
Griffith PD assigned an SRO to private schools, MOU  
Gilbert: sidewalks, walkway  
Kim Rausch: Bond amounts  
Resident: Trees being removed

Council President Rick Ryfa addressed an article that appeared online today regarding the Public Schools making some strong allegations and accusations that the Town has delayed their project at Wadsworth

Leah: Document was sent to BZA electronically, Larry Ballah stated it was not in the packet.  
Leah stated the GPS has never made negative comments publicly  
Rick Ryfa stated the Town Council does not interfere with the BZA, (Board of Zoning Appeals), the town has Ordinances.  
Leah: ramps built at Calumet Christian. Larry Ballah stated the metal ramps at that school and at GPS were for access to the building, the wood ramps that got put in were because whoever installed the electrical ran the electrical pipes over the sidewalks making it impossible for anyone in a wheelchair to get away from the building.

Steve McDermott stated the ramps needed to follow ADA standards.

Leah: 215 parking spaces required at Wadsworth

Kathy Ruesken: There is a history of frustration, we need to come to a common place to start to work together.

Kathy Planner: We need to work together

Resident: Wadsworth: parking spaces amount of people that are there/ High school parking

Chief: responded trying to work on the problem and get it done right


Leah: nine minutes in line

Tony Hobson: possible staggered times for pickup

Leah: Doing the best we can

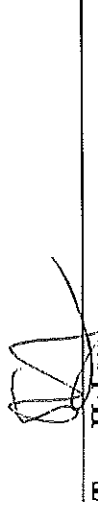
This meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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

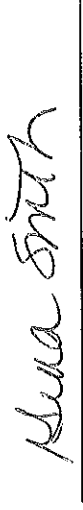
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Lawrence Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

