

December 20, 2022

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 20, 2022, meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Senior Corrections Officer Scott Ozburn Riner
Police Officer Branden Paul Estorffe
Sergeant Steven Robin
Sergeant Donald Scoby
Deputy Sheriff Oscar Yovani Bolanos-Anavisca, Jr.

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 December 13, 2022, minutes, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$2,199,769.62 Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as read seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Town Council meeting on December 27, 2022, at 7:00 pm., there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow, if necessary.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on December 27, 2022, at 6:45pm, with a study session at 6:30.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – snowstorm coming, 1 or more inches please move cars so the streets can be cleared, power outage the Town will have designated areas. Garbage will get picked up on Friday due to the Holidays.
- **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. **Bid Opening Central Park Bathrooms:** Council Member Larry Ballah read the bids: First Bid Precision Builders: \$386,000.00, Second Bid Gariup Construction \$379,500.00, Third Bid: Hasse Construction: \$462,190.90. Council Member Tony Hobson asked if it was known what the Engineer estimated, we did not, Council President Rick Ryfa stated it was much lower, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to turn these over to our Engineer for review and make sure everything is covered, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
2. **Ambulance Service Agreement:** This is a three-year extension of the contracts the Town currently has, taken effect December 31, 2022, to December 30, 2025. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion that we allow Town Council President Rick Ryfa to sign this agreement, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
3. **Salary Ordinance 2022-42:** This is second reading, Town employees receiving a four percent raise, and the Police receiving an eight percent increase. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-42, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
4. **Ordinance 2022-43 Redistricting Ordinance for the Town of Griffith:** The Town of Griffith is required to redistrict its legislative body into districts for purposes of conducting elections of officers during the second year after a federal decennial census is performed, whereas the Town Council has examined the ward boundaries set forth in this Ordinance and finds that the wards are composed of contiguous territory, are reasonably compact, and contain, as nearly as possible, equal population. Council Member Tony Hobson stated that at the last meeting we discussed that the boundaries were examined, and they were changed slightly to make the populations as equal as possible, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-43, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion carried. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this needs to be delivered to County within 30 days.
5. **Ordinance 2022-44 Amending Ordinance 2017-08 Park Fees:** Council Member Larry Ballah stated we had the first reading at a previous meeting and Council, he made a motion that we continue this till our next available meeting, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Council President Rick Ryfa stated that if anyone does rent any Parks starting January 1st, the old fees will be in place until the new fees are adopted. The only change recommended was increasing the out-of-Town fees, we will take this at a subsequent meeting, Motion Carried.
6. **Change Order 1-Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract a Milestone Contractors North, INC:** Council Member Larry Ballah read the change order that came through from Butler Fairman & Seufert in the amount of \$51,300.00, most of this is tree removal that needed to happen, Mr. Ballah made a motion that we accept this change order from BF&S, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
7. **Change Order 2-Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract B-Milestone Contractors North, INC:** Change order in the amount of \$114,900.00, mostly tree removal, a lot of trees in the parkways that were causing our sidewalks to heave, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we accept this from Butler Fairman & Seufert and pay this change order, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Motion Carried.
8. **Change Order 1-Central Park Phase 2, Precision Builders, INC.** There is a half inch water pipe that should have been three quarters that needs to be changed, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve Change Order 1 for Central

Park Phase 2, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Council Member Tony Hobson stated the amount is \$2,920.00, Motion Carried.

9. **Resolution 2022-45 – Transfer Appropriations:** Whereas, in the appropriations of funds in the budgets of various departments of the Town of Griffith, there is a need to transfer fund appropriations. End of year transferring from one fund to another, the list of about 12 transfers, ranging from \$23.48 to \$6,400.00. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-45, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion carried.

10. **Ordinance 2022-46 An Ordinance of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana. Vacating a 16-Foot-Wide Public Alley Within the Town of Griffith:**

This is to vacate the described real estate lying in the Town of Griffith, Council Member Melissa made a motion to grant this vacate and adopt Ordinance 2022-46, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is the first reading, we had a public hearing two weeks ago, Council Member Melissa Robbins withdrew her motion and this is the first reading no action taken. Council President Rick Ryfa stated at the time there was a public notice given for or against a vacate.

11. **Milestone-Extension of existing yearly Asphalt Paving Contract 2022-2023:** This is an extension of our current pricing for work to be completed in 2023, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing Town Council President and Andy Raab to sign off on the yearly contract, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

12. **Boards and Commissions Appointments:** Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have several of our Boards and Commissions terms expiring. Council Member Jim Marker stated: BZA: Jason Nolasco, EMS: Dorothy Soverly, Parks: Tim Diamond, Redevelopment: Rich Miller, Safety Board: Elizabeth Goral, George Jerome, Sue Katona: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to reappoint these individuals for said Boards, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

Council President Rick Ryfa stated we have had a tremendous amount of work done in our Parks in the last couple of years. He asked Tim Diamond, President of the Park Board, to give a synopsis of some of the work that has been completed. Tim stated we have had a great year, added, and expanding our Pickleball Courts, quite popular pretty much every morning from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. It has been expanded to six courts, we moved futsal over near the handball courts and repaved the handball courts. 39th Ave Park, with the Restaurant Depot putting in utilities through the park, we had some Federal improvements and new equipment installed, had some good feedback and great success. At Woodland Park we added a story walk, we had some girl scouts coming to the Park Board meetings requesting the Story Book Walk, we received a Grant from the Legacy Foundation, there are 20 stations and every station there is another page of a book. Partnered with Lake County Library. Coming very soon is our Pavilion Rental online, hopefully by the end of the month the process will be up and running.

13. **2023 Election of Officers:** Council President Rick Ryfa asked for any nominations for President, Council Member Tony Hobson nominated Rick Ryfa, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, no other nominations, all in favor, Motion Carried. Council President asked for nominations for Vice President, Council Member Tony Hobson nominated Larry Ballah, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, no other nominations, all in favor, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to appoint our Treasurer Gina Smith, Council Member Jim Marker made the motion, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment:

Leah: 4% / 8%, overall or each one.

Jake: Change orders related to the sidewalk project with respect to the trees, most of those have not been removed, those are additional trees

Gilbert: The tree removal, is that yet to be done

Rick Ryfa stated if you have a tree that looks bad on the parkway let public works know

Tim Diamond: Plans on planting new trees, there is a list of small trees will review in the spring
Gilbert: Asked about the bathrooms at Central Park, being torn down? Ryfa stated these will be next to the new Pavilion, we received Community Block Development Grants, this is Federal money. The funds can be used for such projects as blighted neighborhoods, improving sidewalks or some public infrastructure or making public areas handicap accessible, so this will provide fully handicapped accessible bathrooms in the park, and it will be adjacent to the new pavilion. Estimates are a lot higher than anticipated so we will look at what we are going to do, there are federal requirements of spending the dollars, we will ask our Engineers to review.

This meeting adjourned at 7:26 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