

March 21, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 21, 2023, meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith
Fire Fighter Jason Arno
Fire Fighter William Fore
Fire Fighter Rocky S Wood

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer - Absent
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 March 7, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$945,229.96 (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 Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 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. IZAAK WALTON- Permission to put up banners, Cline, and Ridge, Broad and Avenue H, and Colfax and Main. March 24th – March 25th.
Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve them hanging their banners, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.
2. Hope Church requesting dates to use the Franklin Center, Council Member Melissa Robbins stated they are currently tenants, and the Town Council will discuss.
3. Request from the YMCA, May 24th from 4:30pm to 7:30 pm, to waive the fees for the use of Central Park Pavilion, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- **Director of Public Works** – Sidewalk program has restarted, working in the area north of the Cady Ditch, will be addressing some issues in Trail Creek, information will be posted on our website. Mr. Raab asked the council for permission for the Clerk Treasurer to seek financing and sign documents for the purchase of a new vehicle not to exceed \$120,000.00, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorize, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.
- **Police** – No Report
- **Fire** – No Report
- **Building Commissioner** – Late last fall the Town created an Unsafe Building Committee, having hearings for any buildings or other areas that were blighted. Attorney Estrada helped launch that part of the program. Estrada gave a report of the achievements, Estrada stated in October we had our first meeting, we hold the meetings on a monthly basis. The idea is to identify properties that are unsafe, vacant, the process has gone very well. There is an estimate of 20 properties that have been through the process since October, and a great amount of communication, residents responding to get their homes in a state that satisfies state statutes. We have had four orders of demolition thus far, one subsequently a new seller took it over and we dismissed this last week. The Town was reimbursed for fees so its evidence that the process is working. Ryfa stated over the years it would take months if not years sometimes to get any movement on the property because of the way the system was set up.
- **Finance Report** – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2023-12 SRF Loan Program: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion adopt Resolution 2023-12 seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. The First Amendment to Site Agreement No. 233 ATC transaction/authority to sign: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to give authority to Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council Member Jim Marker abstain as to have been previously employed by SBC/AT&T, Motion Carried.
3. Change Order No. 4 Central Park Phase 2: This is for a fence and a gate, the additional total for this change is \$7,072.32, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing Phase Two Change Order Number 4, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

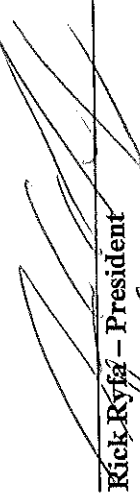
PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment:

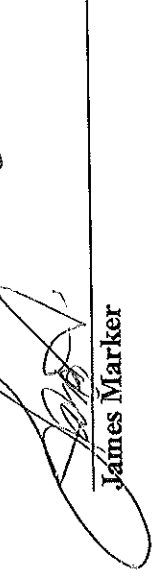
. Dan Reardon: Representative of a nonprofit called Operation Charlie Bravo, requesting to use Central Park September 30th, from 7am to 4pm for a festival. Ryfa asked for a description that will be sent to the Town Council for review.

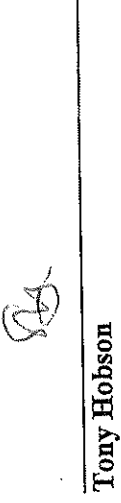
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

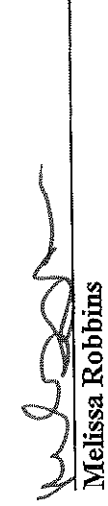
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Rydz - President


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

