

November 21, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 21, 2023, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Senior Police Officer Jorge Pastore

Firefighters:

Fire Sergeant Thomas Petschke, Jr.
Firefighter Andrew Price

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
Alfredo Estrada – 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 November 7, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$736,471.38 Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Re-Development meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 6:45 pm. There will be a study session before the meeting at 6:30 pm, and one will follow, if necessary.
2. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5, 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. Town Hall offices will be closed November 23rd and 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.
2. Christmas lights have started going up, huge thank you to a big group of volunteers.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Real close to getting the sidewalk project completed. Milestone still has a little bit of restoration, 99% complete, should be completed mid-December. Raker project should be up and running by mid-December. Leaf Collection will continue through the first week of December, will pick up if it's not snowing.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – following up on the Plan Commission meeting, preliminary approval for a subdivision for Turnberry which is in addition to the original just over 30

senior citizen discount shall be entitled to a \$2.00 per month discount on the collection fees. An application shall be available at the Cler-Treasurers Office. Council Member Melissa Robbins gave the first reading, no further action required. Ryfa stated what this means the trash rate portion of the water bill is going to go up. Approximately \$4.75, this is attributed to the increase in billing from Republic. We have been negotiating with Republic for many months, they have indicated that they have about an 80% increase in their transportation cost which has resulted in the increase of fees. We still are significantly lower than our neighboring communities for what they charge their current residents, our trash collection will remain weekly recycling pick up where most of the other communities around the area have bi-weekly, so we are able to keep the weekly service for our residents, we are not happy about having to increase but we have no choice when it costs more when the cost to provide service goes up. This will be eligible for a second reading on December 5, 2023.

Council Member Jim Marker had a comment: Great job to Public Works!

Paused Town Council Meeting at 7:20 pm

Water Board Meeting 7:20 pm

Closed Water Board Meeting at 7:21pm

Re open Town Council Meeting 7:21 pm

Pending Items: NONE

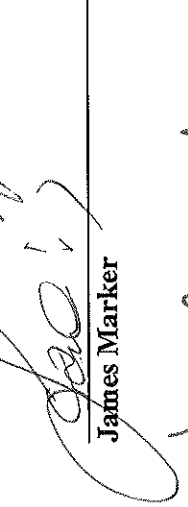
Public Comment:

Jordan Adams monthly meetings at Franklin for his Real estate Club

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:23 p.m.


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


Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President

Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer