

December 5, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 5, 2023, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Sergeant Michael Moran

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer.
Greg Mance – Chief of Police - Absent
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner - Absent
Alfredo Estrada – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Melissa Robbins a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$519,280.38 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. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 4:00 pm. There will be a study session before the meeting at 3:45 pm, and one will follow if necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

- 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: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance 2023-39: Second Reading, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 62. Solid Waste Article III Collection and Disposal III fees Section 62-91, Residential proving for the Imposition and Collection of Fees for the Disposal of Garbage and

Rubbish: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-39, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2023-41: Transfer Appropriations: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-41, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Ryfa stated this is not spending more money it is spending money within the Budget, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Fire Protection Automatic Aid Agreement: Agreement between the Lake Ridge Fire Department, Lake County, Indiana and the Griffith Fire Department, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve and to allow the Fire Chief to sign and Mr. Ryfa Board President to sign, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract Orders Contract B
 - a. Change Order#4 \$199,980.00
 - b. Change Order#5 \$199,997.27
 - c. Change Order#6 \$199,940.88
 - d. Change Order#7 \$199,980.00
 - e. Change Order#8 \$197,028.91
 - f. Change Order#9 \$199,980.00
 - g. Change Order#10 \$197,690.77
 - h. Change Order#11 \$107,231.80

Council Member Jim Marker read each Change Order for Sidewalk B, making a motion authorizing Contract B change orders 4-11, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

4. Third Amendment to Sewage Collection and Treatment Agreement: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to adopt this agreement, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Ryfa stated this is a culmination of about a decade worth of negotiations between the EPA, Department of Justice and including Hammond. Part of the settlement that we had with the DOJ is that Hammond, Griffith, Highland, Munster etc., would not put any more water in or sewage into the little Cal River, we worked an agreement with Hammond, they are going to be able to treat our wet weather events, this sets up the terms of what it will cost our citizens and the timeliness of it. All in favor, Motion Carried.

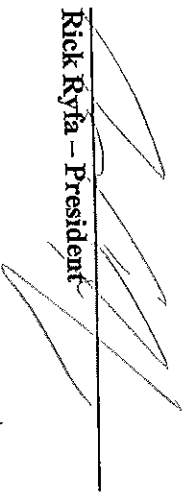
5. Fourth Amendment to Sewage Collection and Treatment Agreement: Council Member Made a motion that we adopt the Fourth Amendment, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Ryfa stated this will be on our website under Consent Decree, all in favor, Motion Carried.

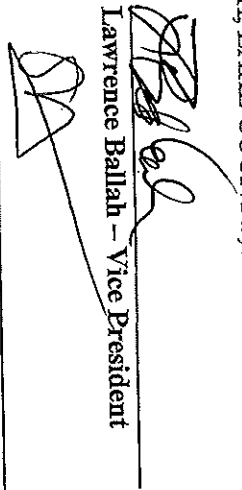
Pending Items: NONE

Public Comment: NONE


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:14 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