

March 1, 2016

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 1, 2016 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Larry Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Patricia Schaadt
Tony Hobson

ALSO ATTENDING:

George Jerome - Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Police Chief
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works
Bob Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to adopt the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Jim Marker. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claim No. 5735 – 5857 in the amount of \$815,005.75 (eight hundred fifteen thousand, five dollars and seventy-five cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a council study session on Tuesday March 8th at 5:30 p.m.
2. The Plan Commission will meet on Tuesday March 15th at 7:00 p.m.
3. Paul Goldsmith will be inducted into the Indianapolis Speedway's Auto Racing Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the Marriot Downtown Hotel, Indianapolis on May 26, 2016. Paul has previously been inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame and the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Midwest Engineering Associates notified the Town that they will be performing repair work on the railroad bridge over the Cady Marsh Ditch.
2. IDEM provided the Town with a Notice of Approval for an administrative change related to 420 S Colfax.

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works – No Report
3. Police – No Report
4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
 - a. Council President Ryfa provided a Flood Plain update:
 - i. FEMA will be allowed to begin reviewing the LOMA's (letter of map amendments) The Town of Griffith is submitting to them on behalf of our residents on March 16, 2016. As of today, it appears 422 homes will be coming out of the floodplain, 92 homes are borderline and will be required to obtain an elevation certificate that can be submitted to their mortgage or insurance companies to request a reduction in insurance rates, and 22 homes will have to remain in the floodplain. We expect FEMA to take approximately 30-60 days to review the LOMA's and issue an approval or denial. Our engineers believe 422 homes will be approved for complete removal.Once FEMA approves the new LOMA, they will notify the town of each parcel included. The town will subsequently send out letters immediately

after being notified by FEMA to the homeowners. These letters will be sent to the **homeowners of record**; which means if anyone is a renter, their landlord will be receiving the notice.

We anticipate having the latest map posted on the town website www.griffith.in.gov by Thursday March 3. These will include the homes our engineers believe will be removed from the floodplain.

To Summarize:

FEMA cannot review our LOMA submittals until March 16.

FEMA will take 30-60 days to review.

FEMA will notify the Town by providing a list of homes approved to be taken out of the floodplain.

The Town of Griffith will notify all homeowners of FEMA's decision immediately after being notified.

Individual homeowners **will not** be notified by FEMA.

Additional questions can be directed to Matt Gavelek at Weaver Consultants Group via email at mgavelek@wcgrp.com. For those without access to the internet, the maps will be available for viewing at Griffith Town Hall.

- b. Clerk-Treasurer George Jerome requested approval to write off utility bill receivables deemed to be uncollectable. 57% of the \$35,840.57 write-offs are from 2012 and 2013 with the remainder going back to 2005. In general, the Town should write off any receivables older than two-years but the former Deputy Clerk-Treasurer did not follow that practice. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve the write-offs, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. **MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:

1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None

2. NEW BUSINESS

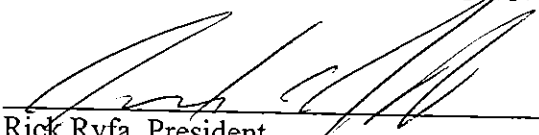
- a. Council Member Jim Marker moved to offer employment to Steve McDermott as a part-time Building Inspector, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. **MOTION CARRIED**
- b. Council Member Larry Ballah introduced Ordinance 2016-07 an Ordinance modifying the 2016 Salary Ordinance.
 - i. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to suspend the rules in order to pass the ordinance on first reading, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. The **MOTION CARRIED** in a unanimous roll call vote.
 - ii. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve Ordinance 2016-07, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. **MOTION CARRIED**
- c. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to authorize Council President Rick Ryfa to enter into a Utility Rate Study agreement with Umbaugh and Associates, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. **MOTION CARRIED**

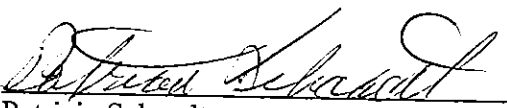
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

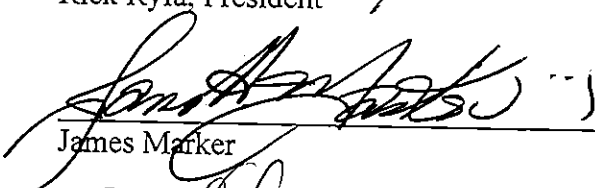
- Burnadette Cope, 1726 N Rensselaer on behalf of the Griffith Fire Department Auxiliary requested permission to place advertising banners at various locations, two weeks in advance of their April 2, 2016 Fundraiser. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve the request, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. **MOTION CARRIED**


There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p. m.

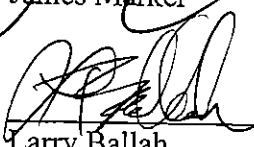
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa, President

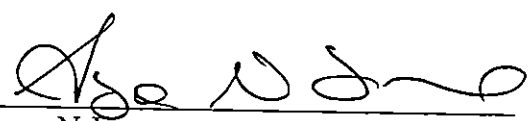

Patricia Schaadt


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Larry Ballah

Attest:


George N Jerome
Clerk-Treasurer