

February 20, 2024

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 20, 2024, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Greg McCowan
Sergeant Nevada Krinkee
Police Officer Paul Elmstrand
Police Officer Matthew Ruge

ROLL CALL:

James Marker -
Lawrence Ballah - Absent
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 - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds, Current Claims: \$802,181.30: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:45 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.
2. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm. There will be a study session before the meeting at 6:30 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: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. 2024 Town of Griffith Events:** Council Member Melissa Robbins read the dates of the events and made a motion to allow the sale of alcohol, with exception Boy Scouts and Park Pull of Art, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, discussion Council Member Jim Marker asked if this motion is for all events or just alcohol, Council Member Robbins stated both, Marker asked which fund will this come out of the General Fund, Council President Ryfa stated we have never taken out of the General Fund, Ryfa stated it will come out of the Event Funds, Marker stated with the impact of the small businesses in Downtown Griffith, is there any way we can think about moving Rock N Rail to Central Park or anywhere else in town, Council President Ryfa stated we could ask our residents, the original reason to have downtown was to benefit the Downtown area, President Ryfa asked if one of our Town Council Members would like to Poll the business owners, Marker stated he does shop downtown quite a bit, he feels there is impact, on Labor Day weekend. President Ryfa ventured to say True Barbecue had a their best weekend during RNR, Council Member Tony Hobson stated he knew that for a fact, he also stated the festival was started with the intention of helping the businesses downtown in the worst weekend ever and when that started was sidewalk sales and other things and grew to a great festival just like other festivals in the area such as Pierogi, bringing up 60-70% revenue. Rock N Rail can bring 5-10 thousand people downtown for potential sales for businesses. Hobson will gladly visit the businesses that had stated in years past that they lost revenue but have come back and apologize for saying that and have increased their revenue. Marker also asked to visit businesses on the West side of Town, Hobson agreed. Marker stated that was all he had. Ryfa stated in the Times best of the Region, Rock N Rail was listed as one of the best festivals, and the Town of Griffith one of best places to live, all in favor, Motion Carried.
- 2. Joint Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreement for the South Lake County Crash Reconstruction Team:** There are multiple entities that have teamed up with the Town of Griffith that assist in reconstructing crash accidents to enter in to this we need to vote on it and have President Rick Ryfa to sign, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to enter into the Joint Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreement for the South Lake County Crash Reconstruction Team, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
- 3. Patrol Services Agreement:** This is a continuation agreement between New Kozul of Ashford, LLC D/B/A Park West Apartments and The Town of Griffith, dedicated Patrol Services for the purpose of minimizing the potential for crime and quality of life issues through a collaborative multi-component approach, the consideration is that Park West agrees to share 50% of costs associated with the salary and benefits of the assigned officer. They will be paying the Town of Griffith \$65,884.52, payment to be made to the Clerk's office by May 1, 2024. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow President Rick Ryfa to sign this agreement, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

Pause for Water Board Meeting. 7:15 pm

Reopen Town Council 7:16 pm.

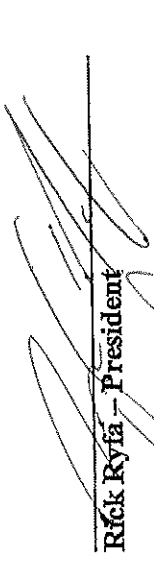
Pending Items: NONE

Public Comment:


Tim Diamond: Events posted on Website.
Jimmie Campos: Use of Franklin, tried to pay for the use of Franklin, utilizes gym, office space.


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

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


Rick Ryfa - President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

