

April 15, 2025

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 15, 2025, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff William May

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Al Tharp – Chief of Police
Building Commissioner
Alfredo Estrada – Attorney for the Town - Absent
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works
Bryan E. Bott – Burke Costanza & Carberry Law Firm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$709,812.22, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 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, May 6, 2025, at 7:00 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.
Council President Rick Ryfa advised of a late change in the Town Council Meeting for Tuesday, May 6th, will reschedule or cancelled. An additional item, Town Hall will be closed on Friday for Good Friday.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Request from Chief Schoon permission to hold annual Boot Drive for the Hoosier Burn Camp. The date will be Saturday, May 3rd, with a rain date of Saturday, May 10th. The booth drive will be held from 10 am – 1 pm, with the Fire Department Members at various intersections collecting for this worthy organization. This will be our 21st year of the Burn Camp Boot Drive: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- Public Works- No Report
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:****OLD BUSINESS:****NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Building Commissioner Appointment: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to appoint Veronica Horka as Building Commissioner, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Ordinance 2025-5: Salary Ordinance: Change made for Building Commissioner; Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to suspend the rules seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, roll call taken all in favor, Motion Carried. Rules Suspended, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to pass the Salary Ordinance 2025-5, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Purchasing of Engineering Services and other Services, supplies, and Equipment for Mutual Benefit: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to authorize Council President to sign on behalf of the Town, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. Griffith 2025-1 CCMG Projects Griffith, Indiana Addendum No. 1: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the addendum, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. Opening Bids, CCMG: Council President Ryfa stated we have received bids for the current CCMG projects, Council Member Melissa Robbins opened the bids as follows: 1. Rieth Riley Construction Company \$1,114,995.00. 2. Milestone Contractors North, LLC: \$1,234,000.00. Ryfa entertained a motion that we turn these bids over to our attorney's, Engineers and our Public Works Director for a recommendation for the next meeting, Council Member Tony Hobson made the motion, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council Member Tony Hobson withdrew the motion, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion allowing President Ryfa to enter in and sign the agreement if the agreement is found with a contractor that is responsive and appropriate through our Engineers and our Attorney's to be the lowest bidder, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
6. Town Insurance: President Ryfa stated our renewal is due for the Health Insurance on June 1, 202, we are looking at several different options to make available to our employees which would include different deductibles and out of pocket maximums and various premium levels, at this point we are finalizing everything. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to allow him to enter into any agreements with United Health Care to proceed with the Insurance Policies, so moved by Council Member Larry Ballah, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.

7. Letter of Recognition: Ruth Hutchins Parker Day April 26, 2025. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that April 26, 2025, be Ruth Hutchins Parker Day, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Tommy Grimmer spoke about his aunt, all in favor, Motion Carried.
8. Event Dates: Council Member Jim Marker listed the event dates as follow: Market Dates start May 16th ends September 19th, Blues Fest July 11-13, Rock N Rail August 28th – 31st, Oktoberfest October 3rd – 5th. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve these event dates and authorize the sale of alcohol, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
9. Permission to auction off excess equipment for the Town of Griffith: President Ryfa stated this is in relation for permission to auction off excess equipment from the Town of Griffith, including Police Vehicles from the Police Department and some other equipment, as well as the Parks. We need a motion to allowing the auction to take place, Council Member Tony Hobson made that motion, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS: NONE

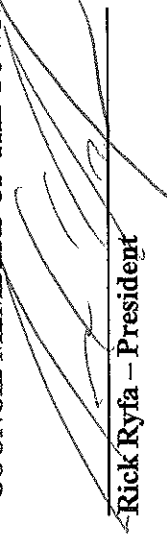
Paused for Water Board Meeting 7:17 pm
Resume Town Council Meeting 7:19 pm

Public Comment:

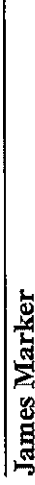
Randy Hutchins: Incident at the Primary election.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 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