

May 20, 2025

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 20, 2025, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Brandon Ray Sikes
Special Deputy Sheriff Larry Henderson, Jr.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Al Tharp – Chief of Police - Absent
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
Jim Sibley – Griffith PD

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$1,926,480.45, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 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, June 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Park Full of Art Request: The annual Park full of art will be held on July 19th and 20th in Central Park, the hours will be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Requesting permission to hang up banners along Broad Street and other locations around Town, also requesting \$500.00 for advertising. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve hanging up the banners and \$500.00 for advertising from the Tourism Fund, 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. Resolution 2025-4: A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Property and Authorizing Designated Signatory: This is the property commonly known as Andy's Auto Body on Main Street. The Town is selling the property to the Redevelopment Commission for an amount of \$10.00, then the Redevelopment Commission will put it up for sale at Market Value. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-4, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Quit Claim Deed: In regard to the same property is a quit claim deed by the Town so we can transfer the property, Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow President Rick Ryfa to sign the quit claim deed, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. Findings of Fact: 219 W Glen Park Ave: This is a petition of Angie's Apothecary, LLC, Angela Gallegos requesting a use variance to sell handmade herbal teas, tea accessories and other homeopathic remedies out of her residence located at 219 W. Glen Park Avenue. On April 21, 2025, she appeared before the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board gave a favorable recommendation to allow the selling of these homeopathic materials out of her home. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we accept the favorable recommendation and allow Angie's Apothecary, LLC to sell the requested items out of her residence, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. Agreement Between Town of Griffith & Butler Fairman & Seufert, Wood Street Pump Station Improvements: This is a 60/40 split with the Little Cal River Basin, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve and allow President Rick Ryfa to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, Ryfa stated this is the continuation of improvements that we have put on Main Street, and now need to address the Pump Station to increase the capacity and efficiency, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. 843 N Ernest Ave, PB Zoning District: This is regarding an issue that came up at the Plan Commission. The Property owner has a business in the home and is zoned PB. The owner is looking to sell the property, there is a condition that if sold there is a question if it goes back to the original zoning or could it stay in the PB Zoning. We have done this in the past; we have managed it the same. Request a letter from the Council to allow the house to remain as non-approved existing property. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to allow President Rick Ryfa to sign the letter, seconded by Council Member, Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

6. Hand Ball Tournament, June 7, 2025: The Park is looking to put on a handball tournament, The Midwest Handball Tournament, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion allowing alcohol at this event, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Paused for Water Board Meeting 7:14 pm
Resume Town Council Meeting 7:19 pm

Public Comment:

Tom Pisano: Gun Range hours of operation

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

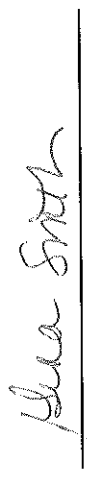

Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer