

December 16, 2025

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 16, 2025, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Detective Tim Jones

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Al Tharp – Chief of Police
Veronica Horka – Building Commissioner - Absent
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works
Alfredo Estrada – Burke Costanza & Carberry Law Firm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council 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 \$854,310.25 seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 10:00 am.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Meeting on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at 6:45, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm, and one will follow if necessary.
3. There will be a Town Council meeting on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 10:00 am.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

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. **Public Hearing Champion Technology Services, LLC:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to continue this hearing to January 7, 2026, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, motion carried.
2. **Findings of Fact Plan Commission:** This is a request by petitioner Mance Consulting LLC to change the zoning for the property he is developing at 200 West Avenue B, from OS Open Space to L1 Light Industrial, the Findings of Fact came back favorable, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow this change of zoning, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council President Ryfa asked for discussion, Council Member Jim Marker responded, he would like to precede his vote by saying he has a great amount of respect for the owner of Mance Consulting and the many years he took guard of our Town, but he has a great responsibility as a Town Councilman as well to listen and constitute my ward, so therefore my vote reflects such. Four in favor, one no, motion carried.
3. **Ordinance 2025-15: Rezoning 200 W Avenue B from OS Open Space to L1 Light Industrial) First Reading:** Council Member Melissa Robbins read the first reading, no action taken. Ryfa stated the Ordinance will be eligible for a second reading on December 22, 2025.
4. **Final Approval for the hiring of our next Police Officer Candidate:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing the hiring of Justin Vargas, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. **Permission to drop uncollectable Trash Accounts:** years 2015-2022, per Ordinance 1993-18, total amount \$6,516.39: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion carried.
6. **Salary Ordinance 2025-14 (2026)** Council Member Tony Hobson read the first reading, 1% increase across the board. No action, eligible for second reading on December 22, 2025.
7. **Resolution 2025-12:** Transfer Appropriations: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, motion carried.

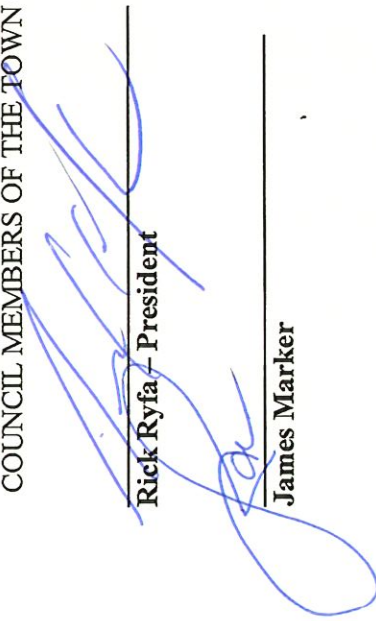
Pause for Water Board 7:12 pm
Resume Town Council 7:14 pm

PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment: NONE

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 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