

November 4, 2015

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 4, 2015 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Larry Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Patricia Schaadt
Stan Dobosz

ALSO ATTENDING:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 4051–4235 in the amount of \$1,069,455.78 (one million, sixty-nine thousand, four hundred fifty-five dollars and seventy-eight cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The November 10th council study session has been cancelled
2. The Clerk-Treasurer's office will close for staff training at 3:00 p.m. Monday November 9th and reopen Wednesday November 11th at 8:30 a.m.
3. The next council meeting will be Tuesday November 17th at 7:00 p.m. A study session will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting and one will follow if necessary
4. The American Legion Post 66 and VFW Post 9982 will conduct Veterans Day services at the Central Park War Memorial at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday November 11th

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. None

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works
 - a. The Cady Marsh Ditch Diversion Tunnel is being dewatered in order to conduct a mandatory inspection
3. Police
 - a. Transition problems remain with the consolidated E-911 Dispatch Center; the recent incident of delayed response was clearly a human error at the E-911 Center. The employee involved has since been fired and retraining of other employees is taking place
4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
 - a. None

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:

1. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None

2. NEW BUSINESS

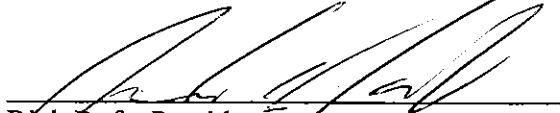
- a. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to authorize Council President Ryfa to sign two agreements with Christopher B. Burke Engineering LLC (CBBEL) regarding work to be performed related to construction of a flood risk reduction levee along the Little Calumet River; the 1st is for preliminary engineering at a not-to-exceed cost (NTE) of \$159,400 and the second to coordinate and administer efforts among various firms and agencies in regard to the project at a NTE cost of \$130,000, second by Council Member Jim Marker. MOTION CARRIED
- b. Council President Ryfa announced the formation of a committee to oversee the activities associated with the levee construction and wetland delineation. A tentative name for the committee is Griffith Levee and Development Committee. Council Member Larry Ballah was named committee chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

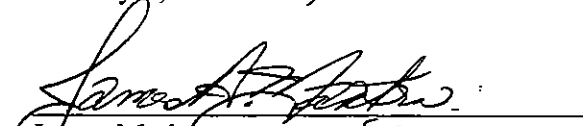
- Valarie Wotkun, 1004 W Elm presented the Council with an award from the Indiana Urban Forest Council (IUFC). The 2015 Outstanding Project Award honored Griffith's tree planting project that was made possible through Enbridge's generous \$25,000 Environmental Stewardship Grant. The award was presented at IUFC's 25th Annual Conference at Butler University, October 14, 2015
- Mike Riese, 1912 N Indiana commented on the poor housekeeping at Central Park stating that he and his wife should be on the Park payroll for all the trash collecting they do when walking around and through the park.
- John Wotkun, 1004 W Elm commented on the lack of staggered terms for the council and expressed concern that problems would arise if all seats changed at the same time. He also asked about right-of-way/yield requirements at bike trail/road intersections.
- Tina Stillman, caregiver for Mary Gillis, 417 S Broad expressed concern about the lack of ADA access at some corners along S Broad
- Rosemarie Mallow-Johnson, 1435 N Elmer discussed her concerns about the failure of the E-911 Dispatch Center to work as it should. Chief Mance provide a summary of what went wrong and acknowledged that improvements are required.
- Hillary Johnson, 1232 N Elmer expressed similar concerns regarding the E-911 failure. Chief Mance explained the problems with pinpointing caller location with some cell phone carriers and suggested that individuals with specific or chronic health issues that periodically require emergency medical response should consider maintaining a landline phone.
- Rosemarie Mallow-Johnson, 1435 N Elmer commented that she and her family enjoyed Oktoberfest and expressed an interest in volunteering next year.

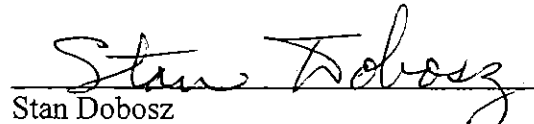
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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


Rick Ryfa, President

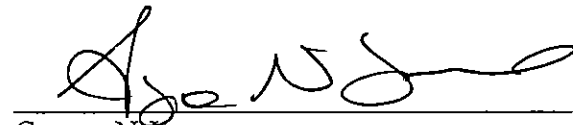

Patricia Schaadt


James Marker


Stan Dobosz


Larry Ballah

Attest:


George N. Jerome
Clerk-Treasurer