

# **October 20, 2015**

## **TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the October 20, 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 Schwërd – Attorney for the Town  
Mike Shaver, Wabash Scientific

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 3793–4050 in the amount of \$1,399,979.48 (one million three hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine dollars and forty-eight cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Jim Marker. MOTION CARRIED

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. There will be a council study session on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
2. Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> is Election Day
3. The next council meeting will be Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz reported that the Griffith Historical Society is conducting a Veteran's Survey to identify Griffith residents past and present who have served the nation in uniform. A form is available at the Historical Society and is available online at the Town Website. Completed forms will be available on display at the Historical Society rooms at the Franklin Center November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. Council President Rick Ryfa announced that the builder/owner of the Lincoln Funeral Car reproduction said the car will be available for permanent display in late 2016. Residents interested in serving on a committee to determine the feasibility of acquiring the car for display in Griffith are urged to contact the Town Council of their interest.

### **REPORTS:**

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works – No Report
3. Police
  - a. Gino is in a contest with K-9s across the nation. Currently in about 7<sup>th</sup> place, all can help by voting for Gino on the Police Face Book page .
4. Fire – No Report
5. Economic Development – No Report
6. Pending Items
  - a. Mike Shaver, Wabash Scientific provided a concise summary of potential development at the former Griffith Golf Course property
  - b. Mike complimented Rich Leber and the rest of the Redevelopment Commission and Economic Development Commission for their efforts in encouraging redevelopment and attracting new development.

- c. Rob Bubala, 1103 E Miller commented on the length of time it takes to develop the golf course property. President Ryfa explained that as Mr Shaver explained, the regulatory process can be very slow and that is the reason we are proceeding on a dual path. Clerk Treasurer Jerome also explained that the property was purchased for \$500,000 and recollect \$46,500 annually in rents for a cell tower, a bill board and a small building. This is a 9.3% return which is much higher than alternate investment returns so the delay is not a cash drain.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:**

- 1. None

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Floodplain Issues
  - i. Issues remain in determining the exact determination of the properties impacted by the revision of the FEMA Maps
  - ii. There is a public meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> at Griffith High School's LGI Room
- b. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Ordinance 2015-33: An Ordinance Establishing Special Speed Zones, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- c. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve Ordinance 2015-34: An Ordinance regarding Limited Parking on Certain Streets, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED
- d. Clerk Treasurer George Jerome introduced Ordinance 2015-35: 2016 Budget Ordinance for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. After highlights of the budget were explained and it was noted that it did not differ from the advertised budget, Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve Ordinance 2015-35, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Vacation of Real Property: Attorney Schwerd explained a request by petitioner Teresita Anderson to vacate an unused alley easement between two lots that she owns: lot 10 of Gerlach's Addition on Lot 10 of Woodland Garden's Subdivision, thereby creating a single lot. This had previously been approved by the Plan Commission. Council member Jim Marker moved to approve the vacation, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- b. Council Member Jim Marker introduced a draft Memorandum of Understanding that involves Northwest Regional SWAT and the participating communities. The purpose of the MOU is to provide a stable source of revenue for NWR SWAT to reduce their dependence on donation and to allow them to upgrade equipment. The annual cost is expected to be less than \$5,000 per community. Council Member Jim Marker moved to authorize Council President Ryfa to sign the finalized agreement, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED

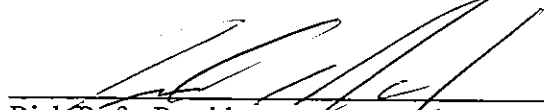
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Cecil Wright, 207 N Lafayette, suggested PACTV as a possible location for the Lincoln Funeral Car
- Cheryl Satkus, 330 N Indiana asked Chief Mance to have his officers check the parks between 10:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. nightly.


- John Sowinski, 1146 N Lafayette asked about the continuing problem with sinking pavement on Brinwood Drive
- Satya Sunkavalli, 1600 E Main asked if airport directional signs could be installed.

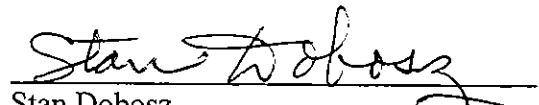
**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.**

**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