

May 5, 2014

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 5, 2014 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Larry Ballah
Glen Gaby
Rick Ryfa
Pat Schaadt
Stan Dobosz

ALSO ATTENDING:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 1152– 1300 in the amount of \$813,556.75 (eight hundred thirteen thousand, five hundred fifty-six dollars and seventy-five cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept the claims as presented, second by Council Member Glen Gaby. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a council study session on Tuesday May 13th at 5:30 p.m.
2. The next council meeting will be Monday May 20th 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.
3. Tuesday May 6th is Election Day – Town Hall is open

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. State Representative Hal Slager provided a summary of the legislative session
2. Council Member Pat Schaadt presented a letter regarding the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Information will be posted on the Town Website
3. Griffith Fire Department requested permission to conduct their Annual Boot Drive on May 10th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. May 17th is the rain date if necessary. Council Member Glen Gaby moved to grant permission, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works
 - a. Repairs to the GT tracks at Colfax should be completed by Sunday May 11th but hopes it may be sooner
 - b. The Main Street project will begin May 12th, the road will not be closed but flagmen will be present for lane closures
3. Police – No Report
4. Fire – No Report
5. Calumet Township Update – Council President Ryfa reported that while the Township has reduced their budget for poor relief, it appears that they may have just reclassified the expenditures as something else. The DLGF is monitoring the situation.
6. Pending Items
 - a. None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. None

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Green Alley Modernization Project

- i. Council Member Glen Gaby reviewed the Neighborhood Initiative Program explaining that the reduced permit fees and street paving will be supplemented by the Green Alley Modernization Project
- ii. Clerk Treasurer George Jerome explained the funding mechanism for the improvements
- iii. Ron Wiedeman of Robinson Engineering introduced the Green Alley Modernization Project
- iv. Dan McClure of Walsh & Kelly explained how porous asphalt differs from normal road asphalt and described how it is designed to allow water to drain through the pavement into the soil below

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jon Condict, 303 W Main asked that the storm drain on S Harvey near Main be inspected because it still surcharges during rain events

A number of residents had questions and concerns regarding the alley program. The concerns included:

- The ability of porous asphalt to perform as advertised
- The type of soil below the asphalt that might not permit percolation
- Repair costs for a non-standard product
- Elevations of paved alleys relative to yards and garages
- A lack of "give" or deflection in porous asphalt surfaces
- The width and pitch of alleys
- How freeze and thaw cycles will impact the asphalt
- The ability to withstand abuse by trash trucks
- The cost of the improvements
- Pitch of the alley when one side is significantly higher than the other
- Utility lines that are in or near the alley

In general, the residents present favor the program but want the council to proceed with caution to ensure the improvements will last and not become a maintenance nightmare.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p. m.

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF GRIFFITH

ABSENT
GLEN GABY

Lawrence Ballah
LAWRENCE BALLAH

Rick Ryfa
RICK RYFA

Patricia Schaad
PATRICIA SCHAADT

Stan Dobosz
STAN DOBOSZ

George N. Jerome
GEORGE N. JEROME
CLERK TREASURER