

## **March 4, 2014**

### **TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 4, 2014 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Larry Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Glen Gaby  
Pat Schaadt  
Stan Dobosz

#### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

George Jerome - Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Chief of Police  
Don Hill – Deputy Fire Chief  
Bob Schwerd – Attorney for the Town  
John Julien – H.J. Umbaugh & Assoc

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

#### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 0523– 0641 in the amount of \$715,472.85 (seven hundred fifteen thousand, four hundred seventy-two dollars and eighty-five 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. There will be a council study session on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
2. The next council meeting will be Tuesday March 18<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.
3. Valarie Watkins, Chair of the Imagine Griffith Committee was presented with a book containing photographs of the bicycles that decorated the town last year. The photos were taken by Jim Marker who had the book put together and made the presentation.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Deactivation of Enbridge's Line 6B Pipeline has been delayed due to weather
2. Congressman Visclosky request for the Town to pledge a portion of CEDIT revenue to the South Shore expansion
  - a. Council Member Larry Ballah suggested that we solicit residents input on the use of CEDIT Funds – Public comments will be solicited during the council meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheelchair Basketball Extravaganza celebrating Disability Awareness Month will take place March 14, 2014

#### **REPORTS:**

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Board of Public Works – No Report
3. Director of Public Works – No Report
4. Police – No Report
5. Fire
  - a. Chief Hill thanked the Lake County Dive Team for their assistance in training four Griffith firefighters this past weekend.

- b. The GFD Auxiliary will have their Annual Chili Cook-off April 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 pm.
- c. The start of daylight savings time on March 9<sup>th</sup> is time to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- 6. Pending Items
  - a. Susan Hoese was appointed to the Park Board for a term ending 12/31/17

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

##### **1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to approve Ordinance 2014-08: An Ordinance Amending the 2014 Salary Ordinance, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

##### **2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Council Member Larry Ballah introduced on first reading, Ordinance 2014-03: An Ordinance Regarding Sign Landscaping Requirements.
- b. Council Member Pat Schaadt introduced on first reading, Ordinance 2014-09: An Ordinance Prohibiting Parking in Front of Rural Mailboxes.
- c. Council President Rick Ryfa discussed the need for a documented Capital Spending Plan in order for the county to release our CREDIT Funds. The expected uses are 75% for roads, 12.5% for capital equipment and 12.5% for economic development.
  - i. John Julien explained ways in which the CREDIT Funds could be leveraged by creating a Building Corporation to bond for \$5-\$8 million that would be retired from a combination of CREDIT, TIF and Stormwater Funds. The advantage would be that there would be no impact on property taxes. He also discussed the possibility of refinancing the existing Stormwater bond to take advantage of reduced interest rates.
  - ii. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to have John Julien and Bob Schwerd get started on the creation of a Building Corporation, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- d. Council President Rick Ryfa introduced the Neighborhood Improvement Plan, explaining that after the successful efforts to improve the business district, attention will now focus on residential neighborhoods by creating incentives for property owners to improve their properties as well as adopting an aggressive road repair plan.
  - i. Council Member Glen Gaby moved to approve Resolution 2014-10: A Resolution Establishing the Neighborhood Home Improvement Initiative, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
  - ii. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve a proposal by Robinson Engineering to reevaluate and rate roads in order to prioritize repairs, second by Council Member Glen Gaby. MOTION CARRIED
- e. The RFQ for the Erie Lakawanna Trail Connector Project were opened. Five firms responded: 10 SHE, Nies, Robinson, BF&S and Weaver Boos. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to take the RFQ's under advisement, second by Council Member Glen Gaby. MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

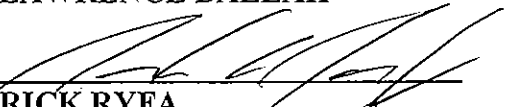
- Barb Schweitzer, 315 N Broad questioned the need to have curbside pick-up of trash
- Donald Rosenberger, 1706 Westfield Court discussed the need for an ordinance regarding parking by rural mailboxes
- Florine Weston, 1712 Westfield Court thanked the council for taking action regarding parking by rural mailboxes (Ordinance 2014-09)


**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p. m.**

**TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF GRIFFITH**

  
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**GLEN GABY**

  
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**LAWRENCE BALLAH**

  
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**RICK RYFA**

  
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**PATRICIA SCHAADT**

  
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**STAN DOBOSZ**

  
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**GEORGE N. JEROME**  
**CLERK TREASURER**

## ORDINANCE 2014-03

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 86 ZONING; ARTICLE XVI. SIGNS; SECTION 86-233, LANDSCAPING.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare, as well as conservation of property values throughout the Town of Griffith, the Griffith Town Council believes it should regulate landscaping installed near proposed signs within Town; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the orderly development of the Town of Griffith, and the Town of Griffith Plan Commission having held a public hearing, and the Plan Commission having recommended that the Town Council adopt this Ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, that Chapter 86 Zoning, Article XVI. Signs, Section 86-233, Landscaping, subsection (a) of the Town ordinances is hereby amended in its entirety and shall hereafter read as follows, and that all other portions of said Section 86-233 shall remain unchanged: Section 86-233. Landscaping.

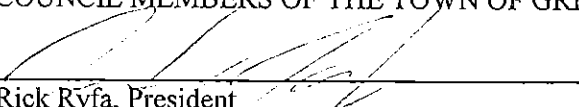
(a) Prior to the issuance of any sign permit for a self-supported ground sign, a landscaping treatment plan shall be submitted to the Building Department showing the location of the sign and landscape treatment to be provided. Should the Building Department disapprove the design, then the Board of Zoning Appeals shall make the final decision with no public hearing being necessary.

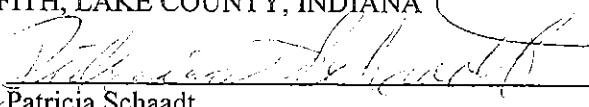
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any and all such Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of the Town of Griffith that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect.

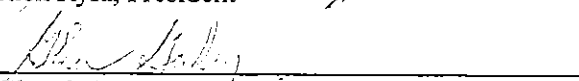
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and posting in accordance with Indiana Code 36-5-2-10.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council for the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

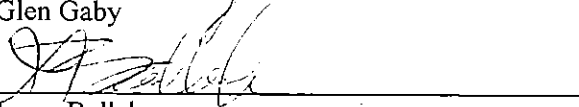
#### COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

  
Rick Ryfa, President

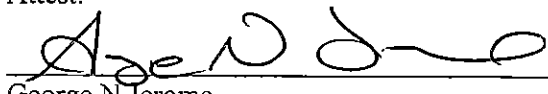
  
Patricia Schaadt

  
Glen Gaby

  
Stan Dobosz

  
Larry Ballah

Attest:

  
George N. Jerome  
Clerk-Treasurer

## ORDINANCE 2014-09

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74 TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE V STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING, SECTION 74-174 REGULATIONS FOR THE STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MOTORCYCLES, TO PROHIBIT PARKING IN FRONT OF RURAL DELIVERY MAILBOXES.**

**WHEREAS**, it is vital to the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Griffith that mailboxes be unobstructed by vehicles so that mail can be timely and efficiently delivered to residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, that Chapter 74 Traffic and Vehicles, Article V Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 74-174(b) be amended to add subparagraph (11) as follows:

- (11) In front of and 10 feet on either side of a vehicle delivery mail box between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., except Sundays and official postal holidays.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any and all such Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of the Town of Griffith that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage and posting in accordance with IC 36-5-2-10.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council for the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

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

Glen Gaby

Larry Ballah

Rick Ryfa, President

Patricia Schaadt

Stan Dobosz

Attest:

George N Jerome  
Clerk-Treasurer