

PAGE
February 19, 2013
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Glen Gaby called the February 19, 2013 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
Rick Konopasek – Public Works Director
Matt Moore – Interim Police Chief
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Bob Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the February 5, 2013 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims No. 281 – 516 in the amount of \$1,134,603.50 (one million, one hundred thirty-four thousand, six hundred three dollars and fifty 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:

- a. The next council meeting will be Tuesday March 5th at 7:00 p.m. A study session will be held at 6:30 before the meeting and one will follow if necessary.
- b. There will be a council study session on Tuesday March 12th at 5:00 PM.
- c. The council will meet in executive session after this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. NONE

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Mansards – No Report
3. Legislative Update – HB 1585 passed the House on February 12th 66 – 32. It next will be assigned to a Senate Committee later this week. Senator Brant Hershman is the senate sponsor.
4. Board of Public Works – No Report
5. Public Works – No Report
6. Police No Report.
7. Fire – No Report
8. Pending Items
 - a. President Gaby requested an update on advertising for the Franklin Center improvements – Council Member Ballah stated that the advertising will be placed within two weeks.
 - b. The solar panels will only be installed on the roof of the Franklin Center after the roof has been inspected and/or repaired as needed.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

A. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Member Rick Ryfa moved to approve ORDINANCE 2013-03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY AND WAGES OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH FOR THE YEAR 2013, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

2. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to authorize Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to enter into a contract with LC United Painting of Sterling Heights, MI to refurbish the 45th Avenue water reservoir. LC United was the low bidder, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Konopasek noted that there would still be a construction/inspection contract associated with this project.
3. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to authorize Public Works Director Rick Konopasek to enter into a contract to purchase a Combination Sewer Cleaner Vacuum Truck from Standard Equipment in Gary, who was the best most responsive bidder for the vehicle, second by Council Member Stan Dobosz. MOTION CARRIED

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Council President Glen Gaby moved to appoint Lt Gregory Mance to the position of Chief of Police following the recommendation of the Safety Board, second by Council Member Rick Ryfa. MOTION CARRIED.
 - a. Chief Mance was sworn into office by Clerk Treasurer George Jerome
 - b. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Interim Chief Matthew Moore, Lt Matthew Argadine and Sgt Jeffery Gang for their work during the transition to the new police administration.
2. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to confirm the Letter of Engagement with KSM Consulting. The letter was signed after council approval at the study session on February 12th, second by Council Member Rick Ryfa. MOTION CARRIED
3. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Griffith and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) to have NIRPC provide and perform two mandated minimum control measures (MCMs) on behalf of the Town of Griffith, specifically: Public Education/Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
4. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to confirm BZA Findings of Fact regarding 1549 N Broad Street granting Petitioner Deborah Day a Special Use Variance to run with the land, granting permission to rebuild the non-conforming structure in the event it is damaged in excess of 50% of its value just prior to its destruction, second by Council Member Rick Ryfa. MOTION CARRIED
5. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve a Right-of-Way Crossing and Use Agreement between Lake County Solar Energy and the Town of Griffith allowing overhead lines to cross a town owned easement in order to connect to NIPSCO's grid, second by Council Member Stan Dobosz. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Linda Jacknow, Mansards' general manager expressed concern about the pending water rate increase. She said they planned to investigate the increase.

Red Anderson, 1447 N Harvey expressed concern about traffic accidents at Broad St and Wirth Road.

Sgt Gang thanked the council, safety board and most of all, his fellow officers for the support provided during the past few months.

Chief Mance thanked his fellow officers for their support and expressed appreciation for the faith placed in him by the safety board and the council.

There being no further business to come before this Council; the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.