

November 7, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the November 7, 2017 meeting to order at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member James Marker read the names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty:

Police Officer Justin A. Leo, Girard Police Department, OH

Correctional Officer Wendy Shannon, North Carolina Department of Public Safety,
Division of Prisons, NC

Police Officer Jamie Cox, Rockford Police Department, IL

ROLL CALL:

James Marker

Lawrence Ballah – Absent

Rick Ryfa

Tony Hobson

Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer

Greg Mance – Chief of Police

Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner

Robert Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

Roy Schoon – Fire Chief - Absent

Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief

Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the October 17 and October 30, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 14717 – 14981, \$1,539,290.61 (One million, five hundred thirty nine thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and sixty-one cents). Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 6:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will be a study session on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:00pm in Town Hall.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 6:30pm a study session will be at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.
3. There will be a Veterans Day Service at the War Memorial in Central Park on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00am.
4. The Clerk Treasurer's office and the Water Department will be closed from 2:00pm today November 7, 2017 thru Wednesday, November 8, 2017. Regular hours will resume on Thursday, November 9, 2017. The closure is to allow the staff to attend Keystone Computer Training in Wabash, Indiana.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that NIPSCO has resumed work at W Pine and the Bike/Pedestrian Trail. During the process of driving and vibrating sheet piling for worker safety they have encountered undermining of Pine Street. This has caused unsafe conditions for the motoring public. Effective immediately W Pine will be closed to all vehicular traffic between the Apartment complex at 1010 W Pine and Lillian Ave.

REPORTS:

Public Works – No Report

Police – No Report

Fire – No Report

Finance - No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

TOWNSHIP ISSUES:

- a. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update. There will be a petition signing at Central Park on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. The signing will take place immediately following the Veterans Day celebration in Central Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins introduced the contract with Superior Ambulance and made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member James Marker made a motion to reaffirm the purchase of a Leaf Vacuum for Public Works and to use Recycling Funds for its purchase in the amount of \$56,010.73 (Fifty-six thousand and ten dollars and seventy-three cents), seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

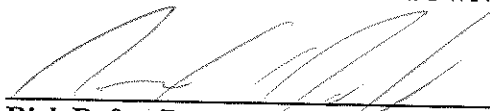
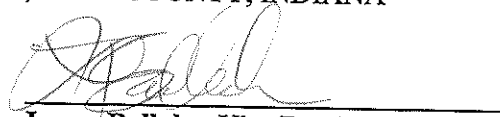



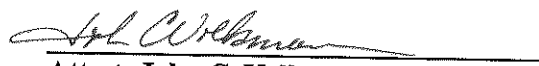
- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-53, a resolution transferring monies from CEDIT to DRC (Downtown Redevelopment) in the amount of \$10,000.00 (Ten thousand dollars and zero cents) for the purpose of providing funds for holiday decorations for the Town, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-54, a resolution transferring monies from CAGIT to EVENTS in the amount of \$26,092.00 (Twenty-six thousand and ninety-two dollars and zero cents) for the purpose of providing funds for security at the various Town sponsored events, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-55, a resolution approving the SWAT Inter-local agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-56, a resolution adopting the by-laws of the Major Crimes Task Force Inter-local agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve the Griffith Safety Board recommendation to allow the Griffith Fire Department to purchase 10 (ten) sets of turn-out gear and 15 (fifteen) SCBA bottles at an approximate cost of \$33,000.00 (Thirty-three thousand dollars and zero cents), seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow the Clerk Treasurer to extend the current CD with Centier Bank for an additional 90 (ninety) days at 1.22% interest, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Carrie Demoff of Broad Street Gyros and Tammy Howard-Washick of the Special Needs Awareness Program expressed concerns over the lack of parking near their establishments in Downtown. They stated that patrons of Twin-Cade park on Broad St. for hours at a time and this puts parking at a premium. They asked if time limits could be placed on parking or if there was some other solution. Council President Rick Ryfa and Council Member Tony Hobson acknowledged that there is a lack of public parking in the Downtown area, this will be referred to the Safety Committee for study and recommendations.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

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


Rick Ryfa – President
Larry Ballah – Vice President
James Marker
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins
Attest: John C. Volkmann
Clerk Treasurer