

**September 19, 2017**

## **TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 19, 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 Bernie Domagala, Chicago Police Department, IL

Police Officer William Mathews, Wayzata Police Department, MN

Agent Roberto Medina-Mariani, Puerto Rico Police Department, PR

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker

Larry Ballah

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 - Absent

Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

1. Claims No. 13921 – 14227 \$999,685.59. (Nine hundred ninety-nine thousand, six hundred eighty-five dollars and fifty-nine cents) Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as read, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah.

Motion Carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 3, 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, September 26, 2017 at 7:00pm in Town Hall.
2. There will be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30pm, a study session will be held at 6:00pm in Town Hall

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that the project to rehabilitate a portion of the sanitary sewer interceptor runs along the east side of the CN Railroad from 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. north to River Rd. will begin soon. Affected residents will be notified by hand delivered notice of the activity.
- b. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that fire hydrant flushing will begin on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 through Friday October 20, 2017. He advised that residents should refrain from doing laundry on their scheduled day as they may experience periods of cloudy or discolored water.
- c. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that the Lake County Health Department confirmed that a batch of adult mosquitoes tested positive at Main St. and Colfax for West Nile Virus. The testing was conducted on August 31, 2017. He advised residents to take precautions to avoid getting bit by mosquitoes, especially for the very young and elderly.

### **REPORTS:**

Public Works – Director Rick Konopasek advised that enhancement to the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists will be made at Main St. and the bike trail and on 45<sup>th</sup> Ave and the bike trail. He also advised that NIPSCO is working in the area of West Pine and the bike trail and to use caution when traveling in that area.

Police – Police Chief Greg Mance advised that the Victory for Veterans Memorial

Ride is set for Sunday, September 24, 2017 and to expect delays on Ridge Road. The ride starts at 11:00am.

Fire – No Report

Finance - Council President Rick Ryfa commented on an analysis provided by Umbaugh on the impact of the 2020 Circuit breaker tax credits. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to have either Umbaugh or some other consultant to do a more in-depth analysis of the impact of the 2020 circuit breaker tax credits, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

**PENDING ITEMS:**

**1. TOWNSHIP ISSUES:**

- a. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa presented a report by the DLGF on pay 2017 Statewide Average Township Assistance Tax Rate. He also stated that the Town would encourage residents to ask for a new petition to exit Calumet Township and that the Town would like to see something started to coincide with Oktoberfest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-47, an ordinance to install stop signs in the Turnberry Subdivision, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**


- a. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2017-48 on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. A roll call vote was taken on the motion to suspend the rules; Council Member James Marker: in favor; Council Member Larry Ballah: in favor; Council President Rick Ryfa: in favor; Council Member Melissa Robbins: in favor; Council Member Tony Hobson: in favor; motion carried. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-48, an ordinance to update Police Department Lieutenants pay and to update Police Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Special Pay, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- b. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Town Council President Rick Ryfa to sign a General Services Agreement with Lochmueller Group, Inc. to provide Professional Engineering, Surveying, Planning and Environmental Services on an "as-needed" basis, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member Larry Ballah gave a first reading of Ordinance 2017-49 an ordinance to rezone 115 S. Lafayette.
- d. Council President Rick Ryfa opened the bids for the EMS RFP. Bids were submitted by the following: Public Safety Services, Inc., Kurtz, Elite Ambulance and Superior Ambulance. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to forward the bids for review to the Town Council, the EMS Board and the EMS Board Attorney and that their recommendation be sent to the Town Council by October 3, 2017, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

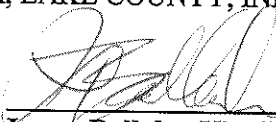
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

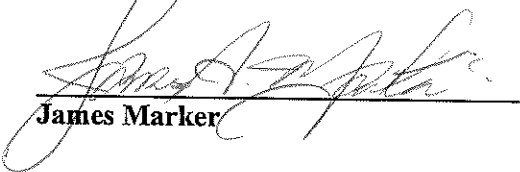
- a. Marylyn Glinski, stated that there were several Ozinga trucks speeding and ignoring stop signs in the Trail Creek and Turnberry Subdivisions. She was advised that the Town would have the Griffith Police Department contact Ozinga about this matter.
- b. Daryl Grandbois, stated the there are trees on Trail Creek Drive that are low slung and obstruct visibility.
- c. Council Member Tony Hobson announced that Oktoberfest will be on October 6, 7, 8, in Central Park.

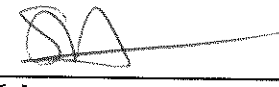
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

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

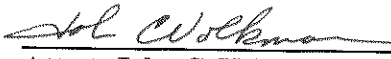
  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann  
Clerk Treasurer