

AUGUST 1, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the August 1, 2017 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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:
Lieutenant D. Heath Meyer, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, OK
Lieutenant Aaron Ailan, Southport Police Department, IN

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Larry Ballah - Absent
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police -Absent
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 July 18, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 13150 – 13320, in the amount of \$1,193,247.82 (One million, one hundred ninety-three thousand, two hundred forty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents.) A motion to approve the claims as read was made by Council Member Tony Hobson, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7:00pm. A Study Session will be held at 6:30pm before the meeting and one will follow if necessary. There will not be a study session on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.
2. The Northwest Indiana Symphony will perform in Central Park on Saturday, August 4, 2017 at 7:30pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins read a proclamation from Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation (NICK) and made a motion to declare September 2017 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Griffith, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

Public Works – No Report
Police – No Report
Fire – No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

1. TOWNSHIP ISSUES:

- a. Calumet Township Secession update: Council Member James Marker read and made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-45, a resolution of the Town of Griffith to continue in its efforts to remove the town from Calumet Township and would accept a new petition to gather signatures and hold a referendum, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried. Council Member Tony Hobson read and made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-46, a resolution of the Town of Griffith withdrawing the December 20, 2016 Special Election on the removal of Griffith from Calumet Township, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Council Member Melissa Robbins read and made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact for the use variance requested at 912 Ave. H, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Council Member James Marker asked for clarification on the use of petroleum products at the site. He was advised that petroleum products are not used, that the variance is to allow outside storage and fabricating of portable buildings used in the petroleum industry. Motion Carried
- b. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign an engineering proposal with Lawson-Fisher for the Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Rehabilitation Project, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- c. Council Member James Marker made a motion to enter into an agreement with MAXIM AUTOMATION for the installation of Cellular modems to provide communication for the water towers and pump stations in Town, this will work in conjunction with the new SCADA system to be installed, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- d. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa sign an agreement with Butler, Fairman & Suefert for the MS4: My Community My Water Education Program, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- e. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa sign an agreement with Butler, Fairman & Suefert for the construction inspection services for sign inventory and modernization project, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- f. Council Member Melissa Robbins read and made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-44, a resolution authorizing entry into an interlocal cooperation agreement for the purchase and utilization of construction services for mutual benefit between the Town of Griffith and the Town of Highland, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
- g. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to give the Clerk Treasurer permission to engage Pay-Gov to install a credit/debit card acceptance system for the payment of water bills, building permits and the other various payments that are received at Town Hall and the Police Department, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- h. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa sign an interlocal agreement for the Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
- i. Council President Rick Ryfa opened and Council Member Melissa Robbins read the bids received for the Cline Avenue Sanitary Pump Station Improvement Project. The bids received were from: Bowen Engineering for \$749,900.00; Independent Mechanical Industries for \$697,750.00; Gaskill-Walton Construction for \$828,882.00. The bids were given to the Director of Public Works and The Town Attorney for review, analysis and recommendation.
- j. Council President Rick Ryfa introduced the irrevocable letters of credit no: 2017-110 in the amount of \$194,450.00 for public infrastructure improvements completed at Turnberry Phase 1 and 2017-111 in the amount of \$85,000.00 for performance bond for the sidewalks. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept the irrevocable letters of credit, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
- k. Council President Rick Ryfa introduced a recommendation from the Plan Commission for final Plat approval for Turnberry phase 1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

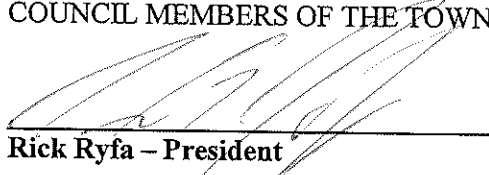
1. Council Member James Marker announced that the Franklin Center YMCA had received a letter from the State of Indiana praising them for their Day Care Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. John Dudliceck announced that Scout Pack 264 will hold its annual Fall Harvest on September 23 and 24. He asked for permission to hang banner and for financial assistance for advertising. He was advised to send a formal request to the Town Council.
2. Patty Delauro made a presentation about areas in her neighborhood that she has maintained, repaired and cleaned that she believes should be the responsibility of the Town. She was asked to provide specific details about this so that it could be investigated.
3. Rick Greenburg, a local State Farm agent, asked to speak to the Chief of Police about the recent armed robberies that have occurred throughout the area. He expressed concern about these occurrences. Council President Rick Ryfa obtained his phone number and said he would have Chief Mance contact him. Council Member James Marker also stated that the Major Crimes Task Force work to solve crimes.

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

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