

JULY 11, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the July 11, 2017 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member Tony Hobson read the names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty:

Police Officer Miguel I. Moreno, San Antonio Police Department, TX

Detective Miosotis Familia, New York City Police Department, NY

Trooper Joel R. Davis, New York State Police, NY

ROLL CALL:

James Marker – Absent

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 -

Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No. 12663 – 12959, in the amount of \$1,688,811.73 (One million, six hundred eighty-eight thousand, eight hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-three cents). Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept the claims as read, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 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, June 27, 2017.
2. The Griffith Redevelopment Commission will meet on July 18, 2017 at 6:00pm with a study session at 5:30pm in the Griffith Town Hall

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. There will be a town wide garage sale on Saturday September 23, 2017 from 8:00am until 4:00pm. The rule of only 2 garage sales per address per year is waived for this event.

REPORTS:

Public Works – Public Works Director Rick Konopasek advised that the paving on 45th St. from Colfax Ave. to Cline Ave. is complete and the striping will take place soon. The paving from Cline Ave to Forest Ave. will start soon. He also advised that there will be periodic closing of the bike trail near Colfax because street and curb work will soon commence in the Turnberry Subdivision.

Police – Police Chief Greg Mance advised that there were no arrests or incidents at the recent Blues and BBQ Fest.

Fire – No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

1. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa announced that there is nothing new to report. He also stated that there is a possibility of having to redo the Petition to leave Calumet Township, this decision will be made at a later date.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

3. BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Finding of fact on 1535 N. Cline Ave. Guardian Pest Control. A motion was made by Council Member Larry Ballah to rezone the parking lot at 1535 N. Cline Ave. from R2 to PB, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa also stated that the business is not operating properly. Town Attorney Robert Schwerd advised that in order to operate a pest control business at this property the BZA will have to make a recommendation to change the zoning to the proper designation. Attorney Schwerd will draft a letter to Guardian advising them of the action taken by the Council and to also advise them that until this zoning issue is resolved they cannot operate the pest control business at this location

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-40, a resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund, seconded by Council Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.
2. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-41, a resolution to transfer appropriations within the budgets of various departments, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.
3. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow the Town Council President to sign the Interlocal agreement between the Town of Griffith and the Griffith Public Schools for the mutual employment of a Social Worker, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
4. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-42, a resolution approving the Interlocal agreement between the Town of Griffith and the Griffith Public Schools, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried.
5. Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to change the job title for a part-time employee at the Police Department from "paid intern" to "Part-Time Intel Analyst", seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson. Motion Carried. There is no change in pay rate or hours worked for this employee and there is no change needed in the Salary Ordinance.
6. Council Member Tony Hobson introduced Ordinance 2017-43, an ordinance vacating a 16 foot wide public alley within the Town of Griffith in the 500 block of Oakwood and Arbogast. Town Attorney advised that this item should be opened to public discussion before voting on it. The following individuals spoke in favor of the vacation all are residents of the area of vacation: Paul Mitcheltree, Tracy Noldin, Donna Himes. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2017-43 on the first reading, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. A voice vote was taken: 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 Tony Hobson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-43 seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

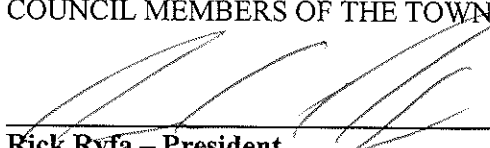
1. Albert Bajoret, 1245 Thistle: stated that there is an issue with a resident who erected a swimming pool that is in violation of Town codes, that the individual mocks and tries to intimidate the neighbors. Council President Rick Ryfa stated


that the Council and Police Department are aware of the situation, that citations have been issued and the Town will pursue legal action if necessary.

2. Robin Robson, 1204 Sawgrass: complained about heavy equipment moving to the Turnberry Subdivision at 11:45pm one night. She also complained about a young person with a Mustang that speeds through the Trail Creek subdivision. The Police will take this under advisement and have patrols in the area.
3. Marilyn Glinski, 1187 Sawgrass: complained of a natural gas on the Bike Trail near Colfax Ave. Deputy Fire Chief Don Hill advised this is where NIPSCO adds the odor to natural gas and if some is disbursed during the mixing it would be noticeable. He also stated that if she had concerns and smelled natural gas she should call 911 and it would be investigated.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

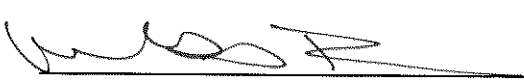
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa – President


Larry Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: John C. Volkmann
Clerk Treasurer