

JUNE 20, 2017

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the June 20, 2017 meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Council Member Melissa Robbins read the names of Police Officers killed in the line of duty:

Lieutenant Patrick Weatherford, Newport Police Department, AR

Correctional Officer Christopher Monica, Georgia Department of Corrections, GA

Correctional Officer Curtis Billue, Georgia Department of corrections, GA

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

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 6, 2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claims No.12393 – 12662, in the amount of \$1,019,887.52 (One million, nineteen thousand, eight hundred eighty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents). Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept the claims as read, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 11, 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 meeting for July has been changed from July 4 to July 18 at 6:00pm with a study session at 5:30pm in the Griffith Town Hall.
3. There will be a parade on July 4, 2017 starting at 10:00am on Broad Street.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Blues and BBQ Fest will be on June 30, 2017 and July 1 & 2, 2017 in Central Park. For more information go to www.facebook.com/Broadstreetbluesfest or www.broadstreetbluesfest.com.

REPORTS:

Public Works –No Report

Police – No Report

Fire – No Report

PENDING ITEMS:

1. Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa announced that there is a hearing this week to decide if the case will be transferred back to the local Appellate Court or to leave it in the State Tax Court. If it is necessary the Town is prepared to go forward with a new petition and we are on solid ground to do so based on the 2017 numbers.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: All of the following public comments on agenda items refer to the zoning change at 1535 N. Cline Ave for Guardian Pest Control:

1. Jennifer Long, 1526 N. Woodlawn Place: MS Long expressed concern about the trucks being parked on the property all night long. She also provided a picture of the trucks. She stated that the trucks look like billboards and are unsightly. She also stated that it looks like Guardian is operating a second business on the property because the trucks are labeled “ALL CLEAR CLEAN

OUT SERVICES” with a contact phone number. In addition to the “ALL CLEAR” trucks there are Guardian trucks parked all night. MS Long also expressed concern that a neighbor’s garage burned down the day after the May 16 meeting when issues with Guardian Pest Control were first brought up by people in her neighborhood. Council Member Tony Hobson that Guardian has operated in the Town of Highland for many years with no issues that he is aware of.

2. Robert Cleveringa, 1518 N Woodlawn, stated that there are many bad comments about Guardian on-line and is this what we want in Griffith? He also state that there is a large green space that separates Guardian from the residences in Highland.
3. Rosemary Osmulsky, 218 W. 38th CT., stated that the rezoning should be denied because it is illegal to create your own hardship to create the rezoning.
4. Pat Reyome, 3048 W 38th CT, asked why the zoning law was not checked before Guardian requested the change. She stated that Business Zoning was illegal that it should be residential.
5. Jack Reyome, 3048 W. 38th CT., stated that PB (Professional Business) zoning allows for fitness centers and office businesses and that Guardian is a Commercial Business not a Professional Business. He also stated that Guardian is an extermination business and should be in a C3 zoning area. Council President Rick Ryfa advised that according to the BZA this area should be zoned business. Town Attorney Robert Schwerd stated that the Professional Building Zoning is appropriate if it is mainly an office type business.
6. The following responses were made by Town Council and the Town Attorney: Council President Rick Ryfa asked if the second business (All Clear) was licensed. Building Commissioner Steve McDermott and Police Chief Greg Mance stated they were not aware of any business license being issued to either business. Council President Rick Ryfa stated it appears that the business is already in operation and they are operating without a valid business license. He advised Town Attorney Robert Schwerd to inform Guardian that they are not to be operating there business at this time. Council Member James Marker made a motion to table a decision on the rezoning until more information is available. He stated that there are too many unknowns and a more thorough check needs to be made to make sure everything is legal. Seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Finding of fact on 1535 N. Cline Ave. Guardian Pest Control. A motion was made and seconded to table any decision on this matter until more information could be obtained.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Director of Public Works Rick Konopasek reaffirmed the purchase of a used Bucket Truck for the Public Works Department. Partial funding will come from Recycling. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bucket Truck for the Public Works Department, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
2. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to give permission for the Clerk Treasurer to sign the lease purchase documents for 3 (three) new Public Works Department vehicles with accessories, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.
3. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to table any decision on a revised noise ordinance until it could be studied further, seconded by Council Member James Marker. Motion Carried.

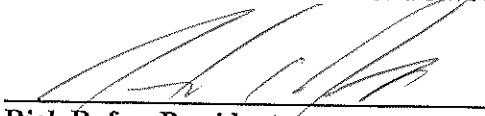
4. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to give permission to the Clerk Treasurer to apply for and sign a Merchant Processing Application with iPayment in order to facilitate the acceptance of credit card payments at the various Town Festivals, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion Carried.

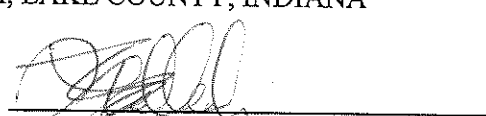
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Diane Jerome, 542 N Griffith Blvd. inquired as to when sidewalk repairs would begin in her neighborhood. Public Works Director Rick Konopasek said the work could begin as early as this week.


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

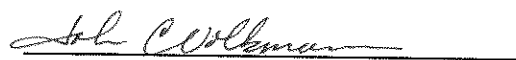

Rick Ryfa – President


Larry Ballah – Vice President

ABSENT
James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: John C. Volkmann
Clerk Treasurer