

April 18, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the April 18, 2023, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Police Officer Emily Ann Breidenbach
Police Officer Hunter Timothy Scheel
Senior Police Officer Trevor Abney
Deputy Sheriff Josh Owen
Reserve Corporal Joseph Johnson
Lieutenant Jan T Choryk
Firefighter Anthony Duivenvoorde
Service Forester Firefighter Cody J. Mullens
Firefighter Horace Dan Wright

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner
Alfredo Estrada – Attorney for the Town
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Andy Raab – Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$708,692.14 Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a study session before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and one will follow, if necessary, there may also be a need to call for an additional Council meeting before then, if so, it will notify. The May 2nd meeting is cancelled due to the election.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Imagine Griffith Committee is organizing the Spring Town Wide Garage sale for May 19, 20 and 21st, from 8am to 5pm. Requesting the permit required for garage sales be waived for this event. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive the permits for the weekend, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Griffith Fire Department is requesting to hold our annual boot drive for the Hoosier Burn Camp, Saturday, May 6th with a rain date of Saturday, May 13th, from 9am to 1 pm, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to allow them to collect at their intersections, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

3. Council President Rick Ryfa stated he spoke with our State Rep Mike Andrade regarding legislation in Indianapolis, there is a Bill called House Bill 1499, which contains property tax relief, which could be in the form of a reduction in the property tax, more information to come.

4. We are having our 4th of July Parade, at 10:00 am. There will be an application on our website within the next week or so. We are looking for people who may want to help the organizer of the parade. Any volunteers please contact the Town Hall. We will be announcing the theme of the parade.

5. We have been discussing the Sanitary rates that will be increasing, we will be receiving the final documentation. There will be public hearing schedules and announced once this is completed, part of the issue the amount of money that we need to come up with is increasing significantly so we are going back to the DOJ and EPA with proposals which will in turn affect what the rates will be and the funding that is required. There is no doubt the rates will be increasing; the Hammond rate has doubled what we have been paying. The Town has been able to absorb as long as we can, and the increase will be imminent in just a matter of when.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Meeting with the contractors and our project manager for the sidewalk program., continue working on the sidewalks, 70% completed. The way citizens are notified, when you see a sign on your side of the street within the next 24-48 hours the sidewalk construction will start, ripping out your sidewalk. Please remove your vehicles from the driveway and park on the other side of the street. You will see a tag about a week or two ahead of time on your door. No parking from 7am to 7pm. Any weeds that pop up in the restoration will be inspected.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner - No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Pending Items: NONE

Public Comment:

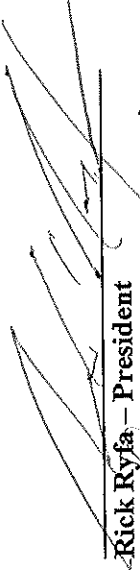
Jackie Braun: Dittich building, demolished, updated.

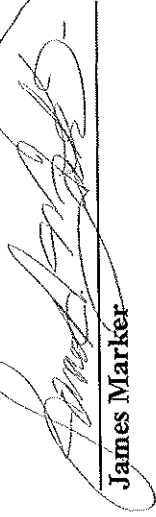
Kathy Ruesken: 200 Block of Colfax, new sidewalks

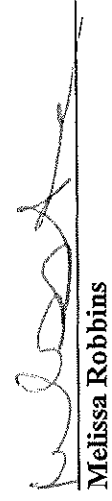
Tina Adams: Ash Street to start.

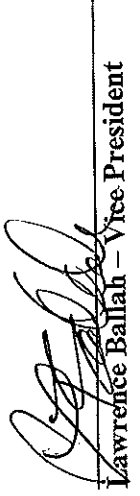
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:24p.m.

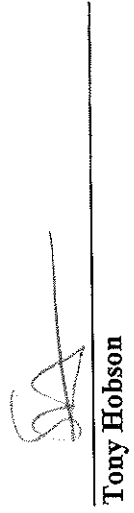
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballan – Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

