

**May 16, 2023**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the May 16, 2023, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

Police Officer Areanah M. Preston  
Deputy Sheriff Kaitie Leising  
Police Officer Robert Shisler  
Sergeant Joshua I. Clouse  
Firefighter Fred Fedeler  
Deputy Chief Chester Taylor Lauck  
Captain Roy Sewell

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**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 May 1, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Various Funds \$790,834.37 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, June 6, 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.
2. **Griffith Central Market** is scheduled to open on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The park has seen some dramatic improvements and the weather cooperates.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. **United way level up Program:** Requests the use of Central Park on September 16, 2023, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Also requesting that we waive the fees. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to allow them to use Central Park on September 16<sup>th</sup> and waive the fees, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. **Town Wide Garage Sale** May 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> from 8am to 4pm.
3. **Griffith Tri-Kappa** would like to post signs up for an event two weeks prior, planned for June 3rd at Woodland Park. The Park Department will be doing a ribbon cutting. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow them to post the signs, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:**

- **Public Works – Road work** currently going on, sidewalk project continues, contract A and B getting closer to 80% complete, work is complete between the railroad tracks and

the West Colfax on the East Cady ditch on the South and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue North area complete, working on areas that are not complete sidewalk in all places but in the West side of Town and Trail Creek currently. Also, looking for experience with a CDL license, please apply.

- Police – No Report
- Fire – Annual Boot Drive for Hoosier Burn Camp, raised \$7,283.00.
- Building Commissioner - No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Salary Ordinance 2023-14:** This is to create a new position, very needed position, part-time Event Coordinator/Town Council Assistant. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to suspend the rules to act on this this evening, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker. Roll Call taken, Council Member Melissa Robbins, absent, all-in favor, Rules Suspended. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Salary Ordinance 2023-14, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**2. Butler Fairman & Seufert, INC: Wood Street Sewer Extension Agreement:** Wood Street Storm Sewer Extension, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing Council President Rick Ryfa to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**3. Sanitary Consent Decree update:** Presentation from Reedy Financial.

**4. Sanitary Rate Review:** Presentation from Kaitlyn and Brooke from Reedy Financial. The Hammond rates have almost doubled, and we unfortunately must pass those rates along to our customers. The timing will be introducing the rates, although, not finalized there is an official process that we are required to follow by statute. Public hearings will be required. We will be setting the timeline very soon.

**Pending Items:**

**1. Sidewalk Replacement Program:** Sidewalk Replacement A and B, are 75-80% completed. Council President Ryfa stated to refresh everyone's memory this started off as a Part A and Part B with the well-defined scope of the projects, there was another Part C that wasn't going to be addressed until next year, however, such good progress and under budget were looking at moving into Part C. We will be establishing programs within the next couple of weeks.

Council Member Jim Marker publicly thanked Brandon for the great job he is doing, and especially when it comes to responding back to our residents.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 7:27 for the Water Board meeting, Public Comments after the Water Board Meeting.

Open the Floor at 7:29

**Public Comment:**

Resident asked about the Park Fence being extended around Central Park

Resident asked about the Golf Cart Ordinance

Resident commented opening baseball many golf carts in the park, concerned about safety and driving through the park.

Resident impressed with the park improvements, asked about the skate park.

Resident social media specialist, anyone to reply on Facebook pages.

Resident Bike path being upgraded.

Council President Rick Ryfa welcomed our two newest employees: Jake and Alex. Alex is our new part-time events coordinator and Jake will be starting Monday as our new IT Specialist.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:44p.m.

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

  
Rick Ryfa - President

  
Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Robbins

