

June 6, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the June 6, 2023, meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Caleb Conley
Police Officer Horren Randy Tyler
Corporal Shawn Kelly
Sergeant Cory Maynard
Lieutenant Richard Michael Hempel
Firefighter James Michael Muller
Assistant Chief Kyle Thomas Osgood

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 16, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$3,551,096.46 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 20, 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. There will be a Water Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, following the Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Fright Noise 0.5K Run, Sunday, October 29, 2023:** The event is to raise funds for Suicide Prevention and Awareness. The date will be October 29, 2023, registration will begin at Noon with the run starting at 1:00 pm., also adding for the super motivated a 0.25K run, that would step off at 1:30 pm, this will be rain or shine. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing this event to be held on Sunday, October 29th, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, motion carried.
2. **40th Anniversary Celebration Griffith Historical Society:** To be held Saturday, June 10th, from noon to 4 pm, Saving the Depot and turning it into a museum is what resulted in The Griffith Historical Society being born. Requesting to close the street Avenue A, from Broad Street to Lafayette Street from 11 am to 5 pm. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorizing to hold the event and closing the road from 11 am to 5 pm., seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – No Report
- Police – No Report
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner - No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Barry Poole, from Fright Noise, thanked the Council for this year and last year's help with this event and the Police Chief with the help given, and Vest. It was a great event; we were able to raise over \$1,000.00 with this event and through Central Market and other activities over \$4,000.00.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Interlocal Agreement Griffith Storm Water Project Trash Raker Cady Marsh

Ditch: This is a Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the Town of Griffith, Indiana and Lake County, Indiana for a Storm Water Project to purchase a Trash Raker to be used at the inlet tunnel located at Cady Marsh Ditch. Lake County is going to contribute \$313,000.00 towards this project and we need to enter an Interlocal agreement to accept those funds. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we enter the agreement and allow anybody that needs to sign, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Council President Rick Ryfa stated these are ARPA funds that the County had received and agreed to give us funds to utilize on the Trash Raker Project which is great savings for the Town, all in favor, Motion Carried.

2. Plan Commission Appointment: We hope to appoint at the next meeting, President Ryfa entertained a motion to continue this, Council Member Tony Hobson so moved, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

3. GPS Fireworks Display: Fireworks display permit for fireworks on June 8th, at the Griffith Public Schools located at 600 N. Wiggs. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing the fireworks display for Griffith Public Schools, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

4. Findings of Fact: From the Board of Zoning Appeals, petitioner David Horn dba Blue Collar Tactical requested a Variance of Use to sell firearms from his residence via Ecommerce in a zone R2 residential district. The petitioner appeared before the BZA on May 15th, there was a public hearing held, there were some residents voicing their anxieties about this gentleman having this business. The BZA voted to recommend to the Town Council a favorable recommendation with the following conditions: No firearms will be sold from his house for retail sale, no firearms can be delivered to the house for retail sale, no signage outside of the house, no firearms stored at the house for retail sale, no demonstration of firearms will be on the premises unless they are the petitioner's personal weapons and cannot be used for retail sale, no ammunition can be stored or sold from his house for retail. All business transactions take place in a third-party place, no one will come to his home for purchases, we have had previous petitioners with this same request, and we have allowed Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion that we accept the Findings of Fact and allow this to take place, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.

5. Engagement with Reedy Financial Group P.C.: Potential General Obligation Bond Series 2023 and acts as our Municipal advisor, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion allowing Town Council President Rick Ryfa to enter into the agreement with Reedy Financial Group, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

6. Introduction of Sanitary Rates: Council President Rick Ryfa stated as a courtesy to all the residents we are going to introduce the rates, the public hearing will be held two weeks from today. Council Member Larry Ballah stated we have notice of a public hearing on proposed sewage rates for the Town of Griffith. The rates will be going up, the increase is due to Hammond raising their rates, which we have no control over, we have talked with them, and this is the best we can do in terms of what input have. The public hearing will be held on June 20, 2023, at 7 pm., here at Town Hall. President Ryfa stated Hammond's rates to Griffith have doubled so we need to pass this to keep the Utility solvent. We are still in negotiations on the implementation side of our consent decree with the DOJ and EPA, that will be part of the rate increase to fund some of the immediate improvements that will be needed.

7. Ordinance 2023-17: Council President Rick Ryfa introduced the amendment to the Golf Cart Ordinance that we had, Attorney Estrada gave a summary of the changes: allowing golf carts in Central Park, except for when there are sanction events during sanction events they'll be regulated to certain designated areas and required park in designated spots within Central Park those are only changes made to the Golf Cart Ordinance, and now in front of the board for approval. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Roll Call taken, Council Member Melissa Robbins absent, rules suspended, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

Pending Items: NONE

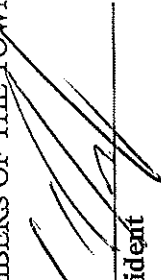
Public Comment:

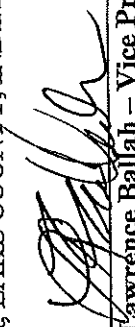
Dan Reardon, representing Operation Charlie Bravo, would like to hold an event at Central Park, on Sept. 30th, 9am to 4 pm. Fitness, tranquility fitness for veterans. Venders/food no alcohol 5K run and 10-mile run starting at the Fairgrounds, non for profit 501C.

Kim Rausch: Raker going to fix the problem.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:25p.m.

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

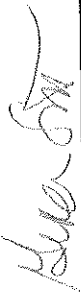

Rick Ryfa – President


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

