

September 19, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 19, 2023, meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Detective Robert Garten
Police Officer Kevin Cram
Deputy Sheriff Ryan Clinkunbroomer

Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty:

Chief Edward J. Steines
Fire Police Officer Shawn Giles
Firefighter Anthony DeSimone
Lieutenant Kevin P. Ward
Battalion Chief Terryson Jackson
Firefighter Mia Regina Ethridge
Firefighter Joe Parish
Chief Josh Kogel

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner - Absent
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 September 5, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$1,222,269.31 Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

- Public Works – No Report
- 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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance 2023-22:** Council Member Tony Hobson gave the second reading, rezoning certain real estate within the Town of Griffith, Council Member made a motion that we pass Ordinance 2023-22, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

2. Park Board Requesting Alcohol Permiiv/Handball Tournament October 21, 2023.

Cheever Park: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorize President Rick Ryfa to sign off on this permit, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

3. Imagine Griffith requesting Permit requirements be waived for the Town Wide Garage Sale to be held on October 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to waive the permits for this event, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

4. Supplemental Agreement NO. 2: The Griffith Sanitary District Capacity Determination, Scenario Analysis, and Per Cline Avenue Lift Station Upgrades and Secondary Sanitary Sewer Force Main Preliminary Engineering. This is our Decree regarding the new Sanitary issues we have sent to Hammond, this is for engineering purposes. We have a not to exceed agreement for \$367,300.00 of which we do have a credit of \$31,000.00 from what we have already spent, Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow President Ryfa to sign Supplemental Agreement No. 2, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

5. Ordinance No. 2023-25: Ordinance of the Town Council of The Town of Griffith, Indiana, approving the issuance of Bonds by the Town of Griffith Sanitary District, and addressing other matters related thereto: The Town Council hereby approves the issuance by the District of not to exceed \$4,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of its Bonds to provide for principal amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 to provide for the financing of the Working Capital project and related costs. The interest rate on the Bonds to be issued by the district shall not exceed nine percent (9.0%) per annum. The final maturity date of the Bonds shall not be later than twenty (20) years after their date of issuance. Council Member Jim Marker stated this is the first reading. Council President Rick Ryfa stated this is part of the Consent Decree that Griffith has entered with the Department of Justice and EPA. This will be the initial start helping with the engineering and some local improvements that we will need to make under that Decree. The good news is the repayment of the Bonds already have been accounted for in the Sanitary rate increase that was implemented last month, the bad news is this is just one of many that may come in the next several years, we are looking at it could be anywhere from 20-30 million dollar cost for us to comply fully with the Consent Decree, much lesser than Highland and other communities are going to incur but its still a huge amount that we have to deal with and we are getting started with it now starting with engineering and as we see how Hammond progresses on their end then we will continue to move forward with construction on ours.

7:15 pm Convened for Water Board Meeting

7:16 pm Reconvened to Town Council Meeting

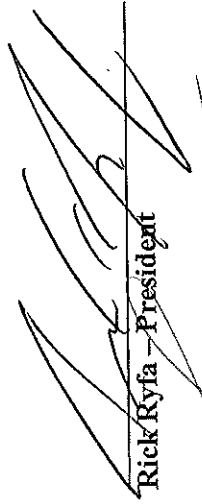
Pending Items: NONE

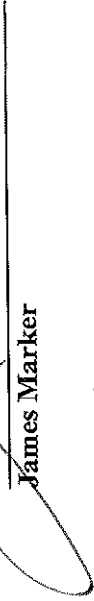
Public Comment:

Kim Rausch: Didn't make RNR, comments, be told the costs of Events, I don't see it as a losing venture for the Town, costs.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:17 p.m.

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

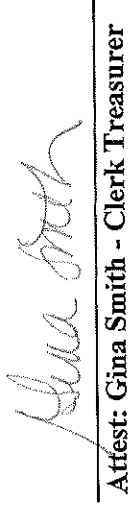

Rick Kyfa - President


James Marker


Melissa Robbins

Lawrence Ballah - Vice President


Tony Hobson


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

