

October 3, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the October 3, 2023, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Community Parole Officer Christine Guerin-Sandoval
Correctional Officer I Robert Clark

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
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 19, 2023 as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Various Funds \$1,393,773.87 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 17, 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 on October 17, 2023, following the Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Imagine Griffith requesting permission to place Christmas trees on the grassy area on the East side of Franklin: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion granting permission, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. The Griffith American Legion Axillary is having their 10th annual craft/vender show and Pierogi Sale on October 14th. Requesting permission to hang banners: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we allow them to hang their banners, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- Public Works – Sidewalk A is 99% complete, Sidewalk B Woodland Estates West of Ave Cline Ave, over the next 7 to 10 days re-seeding areas.
- Police – No Report
- Fire – Chief Schoon encourages everyone to attend the Safety Board meeting on October 5th, at 6:30 at the Franklin Center, in honor of Fire Prevention week we have open house on Sunday from 12-4 at the North Station.
- Building Commissioner - No Report

- Finance Report – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

1. Ordinance No. 2023-25: An 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: Council Member Melissa Robbins gave the second reading and made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-25, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, President Ryfa stated once again the primary funding of these bonds will go towards the improvements required to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree that the Town of Griffith has entered in with the Department of Justice and EPA, part of those bonds also will repay back the District for the monies that were spent during the time that the increased payments to Hammond started and the rate increase that matched those payments, this will make the utility fully whole and good sound financial position going forward, all in favor, Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2024 Budget Hearing – Notice to Taxpayers: Council President Rick Ryfa opened the public hearing at 7:10 pm, Ryfa asked if anyone had questions, anyone for or against the budget, there were no remonstrance for the Budget, Council President Rick Ryfa closed the hearing at 7:11 pm.
2. Ordinance No. 2023-27: Amending Salary Ordinance 2023-27, the following compensations shall be paid for the year 2023 in the form of bonuses to the Building Commissioner, Two Deputy Clerk Treasurers, and one Senior Utility Clerk for a total of \$5,500.00, Council Member Jim Marker gave the First Reading for the Ordinance
3. Ordinance No. 2023-28: An Ordinance of the Town of Griffith, Indiana approving the issuance of bonds of the Town of Griffith Park District, and related matters, Council Member Tony Hobson gave the first reading for Ordinance 2023-28.

Pending Items: NONE

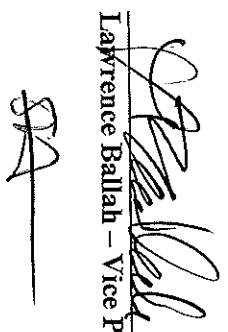
Public Comment:

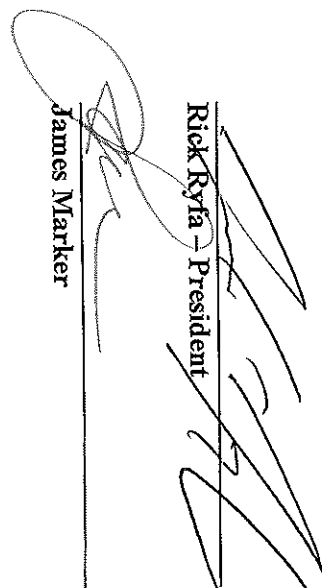
Sonia Lively: Park planned work for Bond, list of projects.
Tim Diamond: Country shire Court sidewalks, Andy will revisit.
Resident: sidewalks cracked by High School, report to Public Works
Tim Diamond: Park Bond second reading, on the 17th.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned to 7:18 p.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