

July 6, 2023

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Trooper Aaron Smith
Sergeant Heather Glenn
Detective Delberth Phipps, Jr.

Firefighter Shaun Luke Daniel
Firefighter William John McCale
Firefighter Stuart Guy Hunt
Firefighter Brian Joseph Letrent
Firefighter Bobby Smith
Firefighter Lloyd Ruediger
Chief Hal Mathew Hanenkrath
Firefighter Brice C. Trossbach

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police - Absent
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 June 20, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Claims \$6,288,898.30 (Various funds) Council Member Jim Maker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 18, 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, July 18, 2023, following the Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Hope Church requests permission to utilize one of the rooms at the Franklin Center throughout the weeks/months for sporadic meetings. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to take this under advisement and speak with them to find out exactly what they are needing, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Lake Area Recovery requesting to use a larger room for their District 13th meeting on July 12, 2023, from 4:45 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Franklin Center, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve them using a larger room for this meeting, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

- **Director of 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:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SSVA Presentation: President/CEO David Uran from South Shore Visitor Authority gave a presentation on the good things they are doing in our community.
2. Oak St. and Broad St. Lighting Installation – Award Recommendation Letter: On June 20, 2023, we had a bid opening. We have a letter from Butler, Fairman and Seufert stating the bids reviewed and the construction quotes for the project and First Midwest Electric LLC to be the lowest responsible bidder with an actual low bid of \$49,225.00,

which was less than the engineers estimate. Based on the recommendation Council Member Jim Marker made a motion that Council President Rick Ryfa sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

3. Plan Commission Appointment: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to nominate Danny Blount, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. Public Hearing concerning Additional Appropriations: Council President Rick Ryfa opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 pm: Council Member Larry Ballah read the Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Additional Appropriation of the Town of Griffith. Council President Rick Ryfa asked if anyone would like to speak for or against, or any other comment on this. Leah Dumezich asked if there was a list of capital projects, no other comments, Council President closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 pm.
5. Ordinance 2023-21 General Obligation Bond: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to suspend the rules to pass this Ordinance this evening, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, roll call taken all in favor, rules suspended. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion that we pass Ordinance Number 2023-21, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment:

Kathy Ruesken Oak and Broad St additional lighting

Council President Rick Ryfa thanked all that helped with the 4th of July Parade, good success and very well attended, one of the better ones we have seen in years.

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