

August 6, 2024

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the August 6, 2024, meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Corporal Mohamed Said
Senior Corporal Segus R. Jolivette
Correctional Officer Rafael Wordlaw
Master Deputy Sheriff Bradley Michael Link

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Chief of Police
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 July 29, 2024, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims total \$1,509,121.81 seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00, there will be a study session before the meeting at 6:30 pm, and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will be a Water Board Meeting on August 20, 2024, following the Town Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Notice of BMV Public Hearing: Council Member Tony Hobson read the advance notice from the BMV's intent to hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed closure of the Griffith Branch located in Lake County. The hearing scheduled for 6:00 pm CST, August 14, 2024, location is Griffith Town Hall. The Public Notice is slated for July 31st release.
2. Griffith Football requesting permission to hang twenty-six banners on Broad St. August 16th to Mid-October. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Griffith Football to hang the banners, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

3. Griffith One Goal Soccer Booster Club requesting permission to hang five banners on Broad St. August 16th to Mid-October. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Griffith One Goal to hang the banners, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, 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:

John asked who would be present to represent the BMV.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Boy Scouts Craft Show:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the request of hanging banner for the two weeks and donate \$500.00 for advertising, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. **Resolution 2024-7:** Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission: Council Member Melissa Robbins, made a motion to enter Resolution 2024-7, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. **Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Purchase of Construction Services and Other Services, supplies, and equipment for Mutual Benefit:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion authorizing Town Council President Mr. Ryfa to sign the Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. **First Amendment to PCS Site Agreement:** This is rental of a Cell Tower at the 300 West Avenue B in Griffith Indiana, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing Council President Ryfa to sign, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, except Council Member Jim Marker abstained from voting, Motion Carried.
5. **Right of Way Deed NIPSCO:** Ave H project where we cross over various pipelines and NIPSCO utilities, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion for President Rick Ryfa to sign, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
6. **Findings of Fact:** This was an application from Alicia on behalf of Triple Libra Tattoos, LLC for a special use exceptions variance in a Zone B3 General Business District on July 15th, Triple Libra Tattoos appeared before the Board of Zoning at a Public Hearing on a variance use application, there were no remonstrators. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept the favorable recommendation from the BZA and grant this approval, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
7. **Resolution 2024-5:** Opposing the Closure of the Indiana BMV Branch: The Town of Griffith officially opposes the proposed closure of the Griffith BMV Branch and urges the Bureau of Motor Vehicle to reconsider its decision in the best interest of the local communities. The Town of Griffith emphasizes the importance of the Griffith BMV branch in serving the residents of Griffith,

Highland and Park West as well the negative implications that will arise from it's closure, the Griffith Town Council calls upon local legislators, community leaders, and residents to join in the opposition of the branch closure to ensure continued access to essential BMV services. This Resolution shall be communicated to the BMV, along with a formal request for the re-evaluation of the proposed Griffith BMV branch closure. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion for Resolution 2024-5, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

Pending Items: NONE

Public Comment:

Jackie Braun: Reasons why Closing the BMV, during the storm's lights were out 45th who fixes.
Tim Diamond: BMV Closing will eliminate emissions testing.
John: worked for BMV have had several changes
Alicia: As a business across the street the BMV closing is not good.

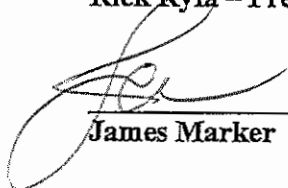
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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

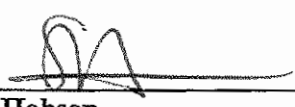


Rick Ryfa – President

Lawrence Ballah – Vice President

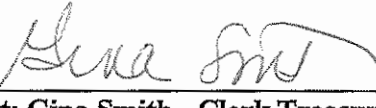


James Marker



Tony Hobson

Melissa Robbins



Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer