

September 10, 2024

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the September 10, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Patrolman Troy Floyd
Deputy Sheriff Hunter Reedy
Deputy Sheriff Brandon Cunningham
Patrolman James Crowley
Investigator Taylor Jameson Bristow
Police Officer Austin Machitar
Police Officer Darron Lee Burks
Officer Phylcia Carson

ROLL CALL:

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

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 - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2024, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will be a Water Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, following the Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

REPORTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

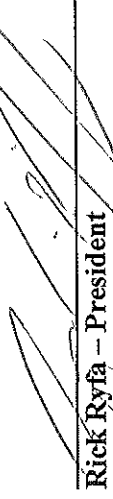
1. **Findings of Fact: Simon Risteviski, 02-200 N. Wood Street, assigned as B4 Zoning, property currently has no zoning classification:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to rezone the property to a B4, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. **Fire Protection Automatic Aid Agreement with the Town of Highland:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to authorize Town Council President and Fire Chief to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. **Proclamation National See Tracks-Think Train Week: September 23rd to the 29th, 2024.** Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion for Council President Rick Ryfa to signs this on behalf of the entire Town of Griffith, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. **Proclamation:** September 17th through the 23rd, Constitution Week: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion that we declare that September 17th through the 23rd is Constitution Week and give President Rick Ryfa the authorization to sign this Proclamation, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. **Fire Works Permit GPS Panther Pride Night, Friday, September 13th:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing the Fire Works Permit approved, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
6. **Resolution 2024-6:** A Resolution and Petition to appeal for an increase above Maximum Levy: We are in a budget season right now; our financial advisors advised us this would be a very good time to do this as we may not have an opportunity in future years based on the high increase of assessed value as we have witnessed over the last several years. Our assessed value this year increased about 1.029%, which is less than it has over the last three or four years, when we saw a cumulative of almost 38% increase over these years. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-6, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, roll call taken, four in favor, One Absent, Motion Carried.
7. **Business License the Essence Spa:** Council President opened the hearing, representatives from The Essence were present. Attorney Estrada stated this is an administrative hearing, the rules of procedure and evidence followed closely to determine whether the business license should either continued, suspended, or terminated whatever action the Town Council deems appropriate by Ordinance this is the Council with authority on this matter. Based on the evidence presented Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to revoke The Essence license, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried. The Town has received an application for the new business, which is titled Sunlight L.L.C, is in the reviewing process. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to deny this license, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa asked Attorney Estrada for any comment, Mr. Estrada asked the Council to direct the Clerk to send correspondence to both owners regarding today's ruling. Council President Rick Ryfa closed the hearing.

Pending Items: NONE

Public Comment: NONE

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


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


Rick Ryfa – President

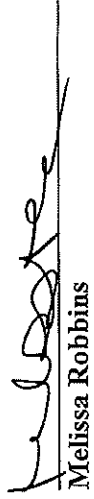
Lawrence Ballah – Vice President



Tony Hobson


James Market


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer


Melissa Robbins