

**January 7, 2025**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 7, 2025, meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

Trooper Clay M. Carns  
Police Officer Michael Horan  
Correction Officer Andrew Lansing

**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 - Absent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 30, 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 in the amount of \$36,256.18, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next Town Council Meeting will be on January 21, 2025, 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, January 21, 2025, following the Town Council meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**REPORTS:**

- Public Works- No Report
- Police – Council President Ryfa announced this will be Chief Mance last meeting, he will be retiring from the Town effective Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, Ryfa thanked Chief for a decade or longer of his fantastic work. Mance’s department made so much progress in the Town over that time, the job well done. Chief Mance followed up with the Council has been amazing, ability to work together to accomplish the crime reduction that we had improved morale in the department. Ryfa also stated the new Police Chief, Al Tharp, will be sworn in on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 pm. at Town Hall
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance Report – No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

## BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

### OLD BUSINESS:

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. Election of Officers:

**President:** Council Member Tony Hobson nominated Rick Ryfa for President, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, no other nominations, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**Vice President:** Council Member Melissa Robbins nominated Larry Ballah, seconded by Jim Marker, no other nominations, all in favor, Motion Carried. The secretary will be the Clerk Treasurer.

1. **Ordinance 2025-1: Amended Salary Ordinance:** Council Member Jim Marker stated this has no Salary change, it aligns with the contract with the FOP, Marker made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, roll call taken, all in favor, motion carried, rules suspended, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-1, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. **Ordinance 2025-2: Establishing Police Body Camera Footage Fees:** Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, roll call taken, all in favor, motion carried, rules suspended, Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-2, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. **Extension of existing Yearly Asphalt Paving Contract from 2024 through 2025, Milestone:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to allow Town Council President to enter into the agreement, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. **Authorization to Advertise 2024-2 Griffith CCMG Project:** Council Member Jim Marker made a motion authorizing us to advertise, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Ryfa stated this is simply the last that we were awarded \$1.5 million matching grant from the CCMG from the state last year. The projects we had on Main Street came in much lower than anticipated. Left over funds and to spend those we need to advertise the additional projects that were approved by the state. 50/50 with the Town picking up half the cost of these projects. This is a continuation of work on Main Street, mostly paving and some curb work, not as extensive as the rebuilding. All in favor, Motion Carried.
5. **2025 Continuing Disclosure Filings, Financial Solutions Group:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to enter into the agreement with Financial Solutions Group, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
6. **Proposal For Professional Services Financial Solutions Group:** Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to enter into the agreement with Financial Solutions Group, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
7. **Board Appointments:**  
**RDC:** Council President Rick Ryfa appointed: Melissa Robbins, Tony Hobson, and Rich Miller. Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to appoint Rick Ryfa and Larry Ballah, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**Park Board:** Council Member Jim Marker nominated Tim O'Brien, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, no other nominations, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**Lake County Solid Waste Management District:** Council President Rick Ryfa made a motion to appoint himself and Jim Marker to the board, seconded by Council Member Tony Hobson, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**Water Board, Finance Board and the Board of Public Works:** All comprised of the Griffith Town Council, Ryfa entertained a motion to collectively appoint the Town Council to each of the Boards respectively, so moved by Council Member Tony Hobson, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion carried.

**PENDING ITEMS: NONE**

**Public Comment:**

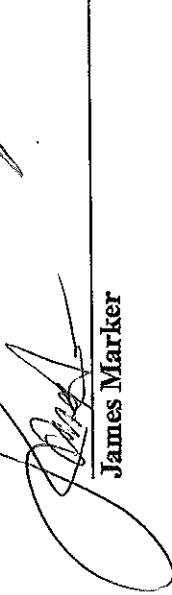
William Harding: Trustee for the Brady Estate. Jim and Lucille had been residents in Griffith for over 60 years. The love they had for their community. They were both animal lovers, they loved all of God's creatures. Mr. Harding presented a check in the amount of \$80,780.33 to our Griffith Animal Shelter from the Brady Trust.

Chief Mance accepted the donation and stated the animal shelter needs this, with the generosity of the Town Council and many residents in town we totally built a new academy, repurposed the building and greatly expanded our services and the number of animals that we can care for, this was over a decade ago and a great need to make many improvements and repairs, it is as if prayers were answered because this couldn't have come at a better time. The chief was very thankful for the gift.

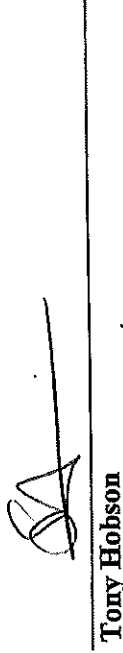
**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.**

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

  
Rick Ryfa - President

  
James Marker

  
Lawrence Ballah - Vice President

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer