

January 21, 2025

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 21, 2025, meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Deputy Sheriff Jesus Vargas
Sergeant Mark Butler

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Lawrence Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Tony Hobson
Melissa Robbins

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gina Smith- Clerk Treasurer
Al Tharp – 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 January 7, 2025, 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 \$2,44,929.18, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a Redevelopment meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:45 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.
2. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:00 pm, there will be a study session at 6:30 pm and one will follow if necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Request: Walk for American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, September 20, 2025, tents, vendors, hours of 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to allow American Cancer Society / Relay for Life to hold an event on September 20th at Central Park, Council Member Tony Hobson, so moved, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, 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: NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Recommendation from Plan Commission, Rezone 87 South Rensselaer: Council Member Melissa Robbins made a motion to approve from R 2 to B 2, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract A, Change Order No. 3: This is from Milestone, sidewalks, original price was \$12,195,720.00. The change order was decreased and the price decreased by \$3,996,987.59, bringing the total contract price to \$8,250,032.41. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept this change order, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract B, Change Order No. 12: A credit of \$3,400,722.15, original price was \$14,193,568.57, with the credit bringing to \$10,792,846.42. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept Change Order No. 12, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins, Council Member Jim Marker publicly acknowledge Brandon Towel for the excellent job he did on this job, all in favor, Motion Carried. Council President Rick Ryfa stated we replaced roughly 64 linear miles. Also, a federal mandate that has been out for several years requires all intersections to be ADA compatible.
4. Popeye's Business License: Attorney Estrada gave a summary: influx of problems in 2024, incidents at Popeye's on Ridge, with the Health Department and with law enforcement. Contacted Corporate, finally received a response, submitted documents to them which would be submitted today at the Public Hearing, but they have asked for a 30-day continuance to review, and will hold a Public Hearing for their business license on February 18th. During the 30 days they have stated they are willing to work with the Town and remedy situations and concerns. Virginia Cees, Director of Operation for Popeye's, requested a 30-day continuance to comply. Council President Ryfa stated this is strictly for the business license, there is another avenue that could possibly be looked at with the unsafe building committee, Ordinance violations that are detrimental to the Town. Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to continue this matter until the February 18th meeting, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. Applications are due for the 2025 CCMG. This year once again they are offering a \$1.5 million grant. We are putting together a list of roads that we will pave this year and we just need authorization that the Town Council President permission to sign the letter to submit the application to the State, Council Member Jim Marker so moved, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

7:17 PM Recessed for Water Board Meeting

7:19 PM Adjourned

7:19 PM resumed Town Council Meeting


PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment:

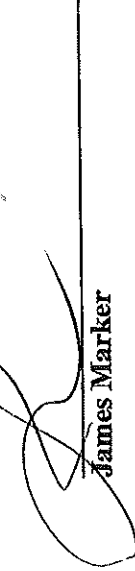
Louise Oman: Flooding on True St. rain, contact Public Works

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.


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




Rick Ryfa / President



James Marker



Lawrence Ballah - Vice President



Tony Hobson



Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer

Melissa Robbins