

February 4, 2025

TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the February 4, 2025, meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Border Patrol Agent David Christopher Maland

ROLL CALL:

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

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 21, 2025, meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$912,708.60, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Town Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18, 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, February 18, 2025, following the Town Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

- 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. Findings of Fact: Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to drop this item from the agenda, so moved by Council Member Tony Hobson, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
2. Ordinance 2025-3: Rezoning, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to suspend the rules to pass Ordinance 2025-3, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, roll call taken, all in favor, rules suspended, Council Member Jim Marker made a motion to pass said Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
3. Right of Way Deed: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to accept this right of way purchase and acquire the piece of property, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
4. Ordinance 2025-4: Ryfa stated that there is a little more work to be done and questions the Council has, Ryfa entertained a motion to continue this item, so moved by Council Member Jim Marker, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.
5. Board Appointments: Council Member Larry Ballah listed several Boards needing appointments: Park Board: Tony Terzarial, Safety Board: Phil Vechev, Plan Commission: Dave Maglish, Larry Stassin, Board of Zoning: John Mowery, Theresa Rivas: Council Member Larry Ballah made a motion to accept all these appointees to these committees, seconded by Council Member Jim Marker, Ryfa stated he believed Theresa Rivas is no longer on the BZA, kept as read, all in favor, Motion Carried.
6. Bid Opening 2024-2 CCMG Road Resurfacing Project: This is for the Community Crossing Grant Road Resurfacing Project, continuation of the work that will be completed this year on Main Street to the East to Lafayette.

First Bid: Rieth-Riley Construction Company \$548,435.50

Second Bid: Milestone Construction North, LLC: \$612,000.00

Council President Rick Ryfa entertained a motion to turn the bids over the Town Attorney and Engineers for review as well as our Public Works Director for recommendation, so moved by Council Member Larry Ballah, seconded, by Council Member Jim Marker, all in favor, Motion Carried.


PENDING ITEMS: NONE

Public Comment:

Gilbert: Popeye's Permit expired February 18, 2025, hearing is scheduled, parking lot is horrible. Does Menards own the old Kmart Building, yes but Kmart still has an active lease.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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



Rick Ryfa – President


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Melissa Robbins


Lawrence Ballah – Vice President


Attest: Gina Smith - Clerk Treasurer