

**March 4, 2025**

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the March 4, 2025, meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Patrolman Andrew William Duarte  
Police Officer Cameron Robert Girvin  
Police Officer Christopher M. L. Reese  
Deputy Sergeant Martin Shields, Jr.

**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 February 18, 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 \$863,238.31, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Griffith Youth Baseball requesting Opening Day Parade for the Spring 2025 season, Saturday, May 3, 2025, line up at Franklin 8:00 am, start at 9:00 am, Broad Street to Pine: Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion granting permission, 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: NONE**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. 2024 Annual Financial Report: Council President Rick Ryfa stated the Report was submitted due by March 1, 2025, the fund balances were in good shape significantly higher than the start of the year, General Fund was up about 300%, the General Fund started the year at \$131,000.00 ending at \$454,000.00, the Local Road and Streets were almost doubled as well as the MVH restricted funds, the Park Department also saw an increase of almost four times from what they started the year with. The Tif Funds saw significant increases as well, the Mall area started the year with \$81,000.00 and ended with \$732,000.00, the Tif Downtown started with \$722,000.00 and ended with \$896,000.00. We are in a good position, we cut spending. 2025 will be another good year financially for the Town.
2. CCMG 2025-1: Design, Bidding and Project Administration: This is a continuation of the repaving on Main Street and several side Streets, eagerly waiting on a call from the State to approve this Grant Council Member Jim Marker made a motion not to exceed \$52,500.00, authorizing Council President to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Larry Ballah, all in favor, Motion Carried.

**PENDING ITEMS:**

Council President Ryfa stated next meetings on the agenda will be pertaining to Park Fees as well as any other issues related to Park costs. Anticipating we will establish new fees as requested by the Park Department.

**Public Comment:**

Eileen Smith: 80/94 becoming Toll Road, impacting Ridge Road  
Is this new, Jackie Braun: Recording remotely? Dittrichs Building – anything new going in, does the new owner need to correspond with the town, barriers from the town available, limit to what can be put in parking lot  
Don McCarter: cuts with budget for schools and Town

**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