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**APRIL 15, 2008**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the meeting of April 15, 2008, to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL**

Glen Gaby  
George Jerome  
Rick Ryfa  
Michael Gulley  
Stan Dobosz

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Ronald Szafarczyk – Clerk Treasurer  
Rick Konopasek – Public works director  
Ronald Kottka – Police Chief  
George Thiel – fire Chief  
Robert Schwerd – Town Attorney  
Pastor – Stephen Sluther Griffith Church of God

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Michael Gulley moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2008 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Glen Gaby.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Claims numbering 982 through 1191 in the amount of \$982,583.88 NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY EIGHT CENTS were presented for payment. Council Member George Jerome moved to accept the claims as presented less claim number 1150, seconded by Council Member Michael Gulley. Claim number 1150 held back for further review.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Next Town Council meeting Wednesday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m., Study Session to follow, if needed (Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> Election Day)
2. Study Session Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., followed by awarding ADA sidewalk bid at 2:00 p.m.
3. Lake County Solid Waste District, Household disposal Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Public Works Garage, 134 S. Colfax

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1.** The Council granted permission for the Fire Department to go door to door selling their Dance – Raffle tickets to be held Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. They also gave permission to close the alley behind Central Station, Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for set up.
- 2.** Council President Rick Ryfa stated that there has been an individual impersonating a town employee knocking on doors. Police Chief Kottka gave a description of the Individual and the individual's vehicle.

## **REPORTS**

- 1.** Council Member Stan Dobosz spoke on the CN railroad closing the crossing at Wiggs & Main Street. This crossing will be closed for 2 weeks while under construction.

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Fourteen communities in Illinois are strongly opposed to the CN/EJ&E buy out. The Town of Griffith, Schererville and Dyer have joined with the Illinois communities in opposition. A petition is being circulated throughout town.

- 2.** PWD Rick Konopasek stated that he had discussion with the county highway department and they will repave Colfax from 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Main Street. Major reconstruction is due in 4 to 5 years. Griffith's share to the project was to televise the storm sewer. The cost for this is approximately \$24,000 with includes equipment and manpower.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL**

### **1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a.** Council Member Michael Gulley move to continue the BZA recommendations to the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. By doing this it allows the BZA to present Findings of Fact. Seconded by Council Member George Jerome. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **2. NEW BUSINESS**

- a.** Council Member George Jerome moved to allow Mr. Fane to advertise for a public hearing to vacate an alley at 3001 E. Avenue C, seconded by Council Member Glen Gaby. Council Member Gulley stated perhaps the town could sell the property it may be better than vacating. Council Member George Jerome stated that since Mr. Fane's mother-in-law owns the property he would need an affidavit. Council Member George Jerome amended his motion to we will act on this at the May 20<sup>th</sup> council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Glen Gaby. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Mr. Don Zuidema, 115 S. Rensselaer, was present about his property. Mr. Zuidema stated that at the March 27<sup>th</sup> BZA meeting he received a favorable recommendation allowing for a Special Use variance allowing a business in a R2 zoning. Council President Rick Ryfa stated the council will not act on this until it receives the Finding of Fact from the BZA. The Finding of Fact should be available at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

2. Mr. Murphy, 6708 Tanger, Schererville, IN was told that his property at 430 N. Broad Street Special Use allowing R2 in a PB District was on hold until the BZA forwards the Finding of Fact. The Finding of Fact should be available at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

3. Mrs. Dorothy Konopasek, 1035 N. Woodlawn, questioned why the trains have to blow their whistles in the middle of the night? Police Chief Ron Kottka stated that intersection must be completely gated. Also, as long as there's a post with a W in it they must blow their whistle.

4. Mr. Truman Ward, 245 N. Elmer, stated Columbia Avenue is closed the whistle post is still there. Also the utility pole still has not been repaired, this has been going on since last year.

5. Mrs. Schoon, 304 N. Dwiggins, complained of the trains and having to wait 26 minutes. This cuts us off from the rest of the town. Council Member Stan Dobosz stated we are working on this. Council president Rick Ryfa stated we will have a safety plan in place to protect the citizens in that area.

6. Mr. Master, 405 Canterbury Rd., stated the park department has a lack of practice fields for the children to practice baseball. The leagues tie up all the fields. Council

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Member George Jerome asked Mr. Masters to attend the May 12<sup>th</sup> Park Board meeting.

7. Mr. Dill, 1750 N. Indiana, complained of potholes at Griffith Park Plaza. PWD Rick Konopasek stated he has contacted the property owners and is waiting to hear from them. Council President Rick Ryfa stated a message must be sent to the Plaza owners to keep their property up.

8. PWD Rick Konopasek stated that the leaf vac would be out however, you must call public works for pick up or put in a container.

**There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58p.m.**

**TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF GRIFFITH**

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**GLEN GABY**

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**GEORGE JEROME**

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**RICK RYFA**

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**MICHAEL GULLEY**

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**RONALD J. SZAFARCZYK  
CLERK TREASURER**

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**STAN DOBOSZ**

