

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
April 12, 2021
6:30 pm

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Town of Pierceton was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Council members Tom Barker, Mandy Espinoza and Matthew Brubaker. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Town Marshal Tim Sammons. Utilities Superintendent Casey Boggs.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the council meeting held on March 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council.

Claim Docket

\$104,933.35 in claims were paid.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- Casey Boggs reported that he and clerk-treasurer Myra Mast are looking into an upgrade to the water meter system with Utility Supply. The current system will become obsolete at the end of 2021. The system can be upgraded as late as the first part of 2022.
- Casey provided the results of the “Reconnaissance Inspection” report from the 4/8/21 surprise inspection. IDEM inspector Lynn was pleased with the progress made at the wastewater plant but again expressed the need for another full-time wastewater employee.
- Council inquired as to the status of the apartments at the property owned by Chelsea Creekmore. Casey advised that he has not heard any updates but assumes the project is moving forward.
- Council approved the contract from Baker Tilly regarding the rate study. Contract was then signed by Council President Tom Barker.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- Town Marshal Tim Sammons has three new reserve officers; Alex Morrison, Lucas Rhoades and Victoria Greisman. Officer Sammons also advised that moving forward, reserve officers will be required to purchase their own uniforms.
- The police department has successfully changed internet service from CenturyLink to Mediacom.
- A radio grant has been submitted by Sammons to Indiana Homeland Security to cover costs for eight dual band portables and four dual band mobiles. The cost of \$57,757.60 covers equipment, installation and accessories. The determination of the grant should be announced by June.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- Council approved twenty hours of service Retha Hicks again this year to help the clerk with the 2022 budget.
- An additional appropriation was presented to council for approval in the amount of \$2054.73. This amount was approved for recording equipment for the council room but was not expended in 2020. The motion to approve was made by Matt Brubaker and seconded by Mandy Espinoza and was approved with a 3-0 vote.
- The abatement for Midwest Roll Forming and Manufacturing was approved and signed by council.
- Myra requested approval from the Council to schedule a Spring trash day in June with Sweethiemer Trash Removal Service. Items that are not suitable for a regular trash day pickup could be set out for this special trash day. Council approved the Spring trash day for June 5, 2021.
- An engineer from NIPSO recently visited Pierceton to check out the poles in our business area. A pole on the West side of First Street which has a cable attached to it and connected to a metal pole on the other side has no current use and NIPSCO will submit it to be retired and, therefore, removed. Another pole on the same side of the street and in front of Beyond The Barn shop is leaning and does move with the wind so it will be replaced. A permit has to be approved by INDOT before poles can be removed and replaced. The sidewalk around the poles will be torn up in the process and the town will need to repair.
- Ordinance 2021-4-1 was submitted in order to create Fund 270 for the Christmas Lights. The ordinance was approved by a 3-0 vote and signed by council.

Park

- Recreation Board Secretary Annie Espinoza presented the update from the April meeting:
 - Jason Shepherd from the Youth League was present at the meeting and it was agreed upon that the Youth League would pay the \$750 for use of the park for the 2021 season. The contract will need to be brought to May's council meeting for approval.

- o The Youth League is in need of volunteers.
- o All parks opened on April 1st.

Pierceton Fire Department

- Matt Brubaker on behalf of the Pierceton Fire Department requested new bulbs for the high efficiency lights in the Fire Station Garage. Tom Barker suggested estimates be obtained that included the cost of labor to install.
- A fish fry fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 4:00-7:00. The plan is to provide both dine in and carry-out service.

Other Business

- Stephanie Campbell was present representing the Christmas Light Committee. A fundraiser with Profitable Solutions selling 5-gallon buckets of laundry soap along with laundry and dishwasher pods will begin on April 19th and end on May 3rd. Stephanie encouraged those outside the committee to take a form and help sell. The committee is thinking large and want an extravagant display so more fundraisers will be coming which will include a GoFundMe account and a breakfast. Suzie Light from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation was in attendance and recommended the committee apply for a grant through the Community Foundation.
- Suzie Light was present representing KEDCO. KEDCO's focus is on a broad portfolio which included entrepreneur initiatives, housing initiatives, and talent and retention initiatives for local companies. She also explained that Forward Kosciusko provides county wide planning assistance and is currently working with the Town of Pierceton to develop a comprehensive town plan. Once this plan is complete, this will open up the ability to apply for OCRA grants.
- Lee Newswanger was present requesting a letter of support for his wife, Debra's, at home business, Healing Hearts Ministry. The Council approved the letter. Newswanger also requested the alley adjacent to his property be vacated in order to make accommodations to his garage which will become the office for the business. Council requested additional information including a diagram of his plans in order to make a decision. Newswanger will present the info at the May Council meeting.
- In regards to the developing of the property at Mill Street and US 30, Mandy Espinoza advised that no one attended the April 7th Area Plan hearing. The case is currently in limbo and will be revisited at the May hearing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on May 10, 2021 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Paul", written over a horizontal line.

Council President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Myra Mast", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk-Treasurer