

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
August 9, 2021
6:30 pm

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Town of Pierceton 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 July 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. Minutes for a Special Council Meeting held on July 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm were also approved along with Executive Session Minutes from June 30, 2021 and July 14, 2021 and both were also held at 4:00 pm on their respective dates.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Budget Hearing will be included with the September 13, 2021 regular Monthly Council Meeting.
- The Budget Adoption will be included with the October 11, 2021 regular Monthly Council Meeting.

Claim Docket

\$81,114.09 in claims were paid.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- Utility Superintendent Casey Boggs acknowledged his staff for their hard work in preparing the town for the Pierceton Days Festival.
- Casey met with Peerless Midwest to discuss the town wells. Per data history, one well has always lagged in raw water quality which Peerless believes could be a result of something that went wrong in the construction of the well. It is possible

that a new well will not need to be drilled and a new line can be run from the existing well. Casey will continue looking into the issue.

- Annual wastewater testing from Whole Effluent Toxicity were received and were passed.
- Casey and Myra met with Eastern Research Group Inc to discuss ways that they can help the town with grants. They will be returning on September 1 to discuss ways they are able to help the town and will be visiting the water plant with Casey.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- Three new Reserve Officers were sworn in by Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. The three officers are Victoria Greisman, Alex Morrison and Lucas Rhoades. A family member chosen by each Reserve Officer pinned the badge on the officer's uniforms.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- Ordinance 2021-2-1, an ordinance that established a Covid 19 employee policy, was extended by council until September 14, 2021.
- Resolution 8-1-21 which established an hourly rate of \$15 an hour for new hired Deputy Clerk Kelly Engle was approved. Mandy Espinoza made the motion to approve followed by Matt Brubaker who seconded the motion. The resolution was approved with a 3-0 vote. Kelly will officially start the position on August 10, 2021. The position is to train to take the full-time position in 2022 to replace the current Deputy Clerk Linda Bailey whpl plans to retire at the end of 2021.
- An error was found in the minutes approved at the July Council Meeting by Clerk Myra Mast after the July meeting. In reference to the approval of the previous minutes, June 14 was typed in the minutes instead of May 17. The date was crossed off and the correct date written on the approved June minutes.
- The Christmas Lights fund received a \$2000 donation from the Leon and Doris Kubacki Charitable Endowment Fund. We also received a \$500 check from the Presbyterian church, \$1000 from Northern Gases and another \$120 from residents. Diana Richards is holding the money made during Pierceton Days so she can have change for sales during the tomato festival. Myra from Bar 13 believes they will have around \$1500 from the t-shirt sales for us and has ordered more shirts. The display inventory is low right now so we ordered our third display piece. The Nativity is still available so hoping to bring in enough to make that the next purchase.
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distribution to the Town of Pierceton will be \$115,256.88 for this year.

- Ross Hagen from Baker Tilly was present to review the completed Water and Wastewater Rate Studies. The firm found that the town is short paying the water department for the hydrant rental. They advised a fee could be added to the water bills to make up for the difference if not able to be paid from the General Fund. Ross advised that, to meet current and future expenditures, the water rate should be increased 8.4% and the wastewater by 7.9%. Council will discuss at a future Special Meeting how to proceed.
- The Community Crossings Matching Grant has been completed and submitted. Completing the grant was a team effort by Myra Mast, Casey Boggs and Jonah Studebaker with assistance from representatives from MACOG.

Park Update from Annie Espinoza

- The Pierceton Youth League president, Jason Shepherd, resigned his position and a new board has been established. The \$750 lease amount and the proof of insurance coverage have been provided to the clerk's office. The park fund covered costs to replace all locks at the Community Park.


Other Business

- Kim Rose was present representing her parents who were issued two Ordinance Violations by Town Marshall regarding the clean-up of their property. The Council voted at the July Council meeting to allow the Hartup's ninety days to clean up their property. Kim brought pictures stating the clean-up is almost complete and will be ready in a few days for the Town Marshall to inspect.


Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on September 13, 2021 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer