

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
February 14, 2022
6:30 pm

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Town of Pierceton opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Present

Council members Mandy Espinoza, Matt Brubaker and Tom Barker. 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 January 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. Also approved were minutes from a Special Council Meeting held on January 12, 2022 at 6:60 pm and a Special Council Meeting held on January 17, 2022 at 10:00 am. The Year End Council Meeting minutes from December 29, 2022 were approved.

Claim Docket

\$106,452.33 in claims were paid.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Christmas Lights Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at the Pierceton Community Building at 6:00 pm.

Streets, Water, Sewer – Casey Boggs

- The container purchased by the town to store the Christmas displays and lights has been delivered. Casey stated that it is better than he expected. Jonah will be working the ground near the sewer plant as soon as possible to set the unit in its permanent home so the display pieces can be moved from the PPD garage.
- Casey praised his staff for the work and hours they put in during the most recent snow storm. He also wanted to make residents aware that snow is not plowed to only one side of the street and that the snow has to go somewhere and both sides of the street get about the same amount of snow pushed aside.
- Wastewater Permits look good and will go into effect in March.

- The change in labs from Element to CF Environmental has been very beneficial. CF Environmental can test to lower numbers and greatly reducing the chance that monthly averages would exceed limits.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- The damage claim for the skate park has been turned over to the prosecutor's office due. PPD has been unable to obtain payment for the parents of the juveniles involved. Only one set of parents agreed to pay the one third amount to cover the repairs so all was turned over to the county prosecutor's office.
- The body-ware matching grant has been completed
- Reserve officer Lucas Rhodes has completed training and has been patrolling alone for some time and put in 22 hours from the end of January through the first of February. All other reserves continue field training with full time officers.
- The PPD is in need of a new refrigerator. A new unit has been priced at Menards in the amount of \$389. Council President advised that this is not a capital asset and does not need approval and should go through the purchase order request process.
- Officer Sammons requested an executive session. Tammy Keirn, town attorney, questioned Sammons as to the reason for the session due to state statute only allows executive sessions for specific reasons and asked for the reason for the request. Sammons stated transparency and the treatment of the police department. She advised him to set up a meeting with the council president then, if Mandy determined a session is warranted, a session could be scheduled.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- A quote for a server for the Clerk/Utility office was presented to council. The quote was from MicroByte Enterprises in the amount \$4848 which covers the cost of the equipment, parts and labor but, due to fluctuation in electronic parts prices, the quote was valid for only seven days so the actual cost may be a little less or more depending on the price of parts at the time of the order. The need for the server is due to changes in the update for the Keystone Fund software which is causing the connection on the clerk's computer to separate when updating is complete. MicroByte has visited the office twice to fix the problem. Tammy Keirn advised the additional advantages of a server is more secure storage of data and the ability to share files within the office. Matt Brubaker made the motion to approve. Tom Barker seconded the motion of the purchase and the vote carried 3-0.
- Per a request by Mandy Espinoza at the previous meeting, a quote has been received from Alliance for replacements of the heating units at the Community Building. Casey Boggs advised he would like to get a few more quotes before

moving forward with any replacement of the units. Mandy stated the units should be replaced before next Winter.

- Sweetheimer Trash Removal confirmed June 4, 2022 for the town's Spring Clean Up Day. The cost is \$75 per hour for labor and \$40 per ton per the trash removal contract. The total cost for the clean up day was \$2800. Council approved with a 3-0 vote.
- The Codification Proposal Code of Ordinances from American Legal Publishing Corporation was discussed by Tammy Keirn and the Council. This was approved at a budget meeting in 2021. The cost of \$5995 will be over a two-year budget. The advantages include the availability of ordinances by residents via the town website and also a more efficient way for Tammy and the clerk and staff to pull up ordinances. Council President, Mandy Espinoza, signed the agreement.
- Owners of property at 711 W Tower Street requested an adjustment of the sewer bill due to a leak at the location which used over 20,000 gallons of water within a month. The water is turned off at the location at the request of the owner who will be in another state working until Spring and will not be able to look into the source of the leak until then. Clerk, Myra Mast, presented the request to council since it was not yet determined if the water went down the sewer or not. Council tabled the request at this time until more information could be provided.
- Myra Mast advised council that she will not be in attendance for the March 14th council meeting. The Indiana League of Municipal Clerk's and Treasures (ILMCT) will be in person this year in Muncie and Myra will be attending the training from March 14-17.

Park Report by Annie Espinoza

- The contract for the Pierceton Youth League has been updated and will be signed at the next park board meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Other Business


- Pam Kennedy presented a request for council to approve a release of mortgage for 504 E Keith Street that was to the Town of Pierceton Affordability Housing Fund. Council voted and approved the release.
- Alan Tio from KEDCO provided a quarterly update advising that KEDCO's focus is on entrepreneurship, housing and talent.
- Alan Tio introduced Amy Roe who is the newly hired coordinator for the new Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP). Her role in the position will be as an advocate to come along side smaller communities and to assist with improving these communities via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Amy shared a little about herself and also the HELP program.

- Sealed bids for the street project were opened and reviewed by council. Tom Barker made a motion to accept the bid from Niblock Excavating Inc in the amount of \$209,185. Matt Brubaker seconded and the motion accepting the bid passed with a 3-0 vote. Two other bids received were from 1st Brooks Construction in the amount of \$267,642 and Phend & Brown Inc in the amount of \$255,604.55.

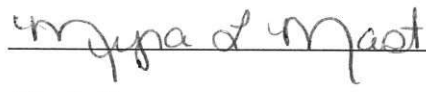
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on March 14, 2022 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer