

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
July 11, 2022
6:30 pm

Opening

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

Present

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the council meeting held on May 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council.

Claim Docket

\$267,844.43 in claims were paid.

Billing Adjustments

\$-183.68 utility account adjustments.

Streets, Water, Sewer – Casey Boggs

- Town Superintendent Casey Boggs reported that lightning struck the water tower on July 5th and the communication from the tower to the water plant went out. There were “fried” components but Peerless Midwest was able to respond and make the necessary repairs.
- Repairs mentioned in the recent water inspection were completed. Town attorney Tammy Keirn emailed the town response letter to IDEM. Feedback will be provided from IDEM once the documents were reviewed.
- All forms have been completed and provided to INDOT to close roads during the Pierceton Days Festival.
- There has been difficulty getting hot patch for the roads as the staff have been very busy since last council meeting and it takes two employees to get the load. Casey expects this will be done in the next couple of weeks.

- After the storm in June, Casey reported that they picked up the most brush and branches then he has ever picked up. Several trees were also down in roadways and they guys cut them up to clear the roads.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- There has been a request for “no parking” signs in the area of the softball field at the trail. There has been parking on or near the trails which can cause damage to the trail. Officer Sammons would like to update the sidewalk ordinance to include trailways.
- The library asked for items such as DNA kits, child safety kits, home safety handouts, etc. Council asked for a quote for these items and also suggested that the library check with the county for these things.
- Officer Sammons expressed concern for parking issues that exists at some residents in Pierceton.
- Matt Brubaker, town council vice president and liaison for the PPD, expressed a need to require Pierceton officers to use their own transportation to and from work due to the rise in fuel prices and the affect it has on the town. Officer Sammons advised the news would not go over well with staff. Matt made a motion to require the town patrol cars to be parked when not in use for patrolling. Tom Barker seconded the motion and it carried with a 3-0 vote.

Park – Annie Espinoza

- Annie, on behalf of the Recreation Committee and the Town Council, will submit a request to the K21 Foundation to use grant money allotted to the town in 2019 for security at the parks.
- The Woods Academy built ten picnic tables for the park. Annie asked council to approve an expenditure from the Public Relations fund in the amount of \$200 to buy pizza and deliver to the academy as a thank you. Council approved with a 3-0 vote.
- Town Clerk, Myra Mast, advised that she talked to Holly Swoverland at the K21 foundation about applying for a grant to cover an upgrade to the Washington Township/Pierceton park which will include the current tennis court where a pickleball court will be added and to replace an aging piece of playground equipment with a new ADA compliant piece. Council approved moving forward with the grant to meet the November 1, 2022 deadline.

Clerk’s Report – Myra Mast

- A Scope Appendix to Engagement Letter between the town of Pierceton and Baker Tilly was voted on by council. The agreement was presented due to the State of Indiana repealing the Utility Receipts Tax (URT). Baker Tilly will

provide the necessary ordinance and documents for the reduction in the current water charges. Matt Brubaker made a motion to accept the terms and to move forward with Baker Tilly. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

- The town council approved the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for the for the TRECS Program (Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System. This program will allow the town to submit to the program past due charges that have been uncollectible due to no response from the former resident or ones that have been unable to locate. The only cost to the town is the initial letter the TRECS program will send to the debtor once located. The cost is \$2 per letter. If the debtor fails to pay the past due charges, the amounts due will be deducted from their next tax return and then paid to the town.
- The Clerk's office received a donation for the current public relations campaign in the office. Per the town's ordinance on restricted donations, it was brought to a vote and the council approved the use of the \$75 donations as requested.
- The resident at 7649 E US 30 requested an adjustment to the current bill. The bill is being estimated due to a broken meter but was estimated to usage during a leak at the residence. The council approved a one-time adjustment in the amount of \$100. Going forward, until the meter is repaired, the usage will be estimated against usage prior to the leak in 2021.
- A grant application was submitted to the Kosciusko County Community Foundation in the amount of \$5023 for the completions of the current Christmas Lights project. The town should be notified in September if a grant is rewarded.

Other Business

- John Lantz, president of the Animal Welfare League of Kosciusko County, gave a presentation on where the shelter is currently. He provided a handout providing financial information, AWL officers and directors, shelter statistics, and other shelter information. John advised that they are developing a Lifestyle pet program that will reduce the cost of adoption for area Senior Citizens. They have a nursery program where volunteers foster and feed young abandoned kittens. They have plans to remodel the old building on campus to make a cat house due to current conditions with the cats in with the dogs creates anxiety with the cats. John asked that council consider a donation to AWL as they plan the budget for 2023.
- In response to the presentation, a resident in attendance asked if Pierceton has an animal control officer. She was advised to call the PPD for such issues.
- The council voted 3-0 to move forward with a case against a former employee who left employment before his contract had been fulfilled.
- A resident advised council of lawn mowers and parts that are spilling into the alley that runs East to West between Catholic and Elm Streets and is owned by Frush. Council advised it would be looked into.

- It was explained again to residents who mentioned the unsafe housing fund that, though the fund has been created, there is currently no money in the fund. At the end of the year meeting, it will be determined how much money can be transferred from the General Fund from unspent funds. Clerk, Myra Mast, advised that donations will be accepted also for this fund.
- A concern was issued regarding the noon siren at the fire station. Casey Boggs advised that it was “repaired” but is still not working and will need to have it checked out again.

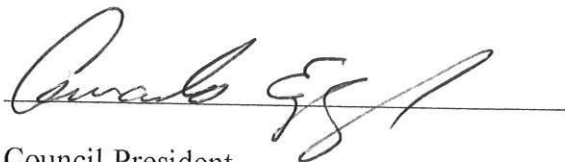
Meetings

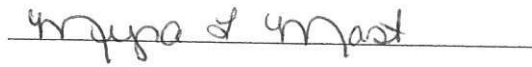
- The second budget meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2022 at 5:30. This will be a public meeting at the Pierceton Community Building.
- A special meeting has been scheduled for September 6, 2022 at 5:30 also at the Pierceton Community Building. At this meeting, the Pathway committees will present proposals to use the ARPA grant funds to the Town Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on August 8, 2022 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer.


Council President


Clerk-Treasurer