

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
July 12, 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 June 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council.

Upcoming Meetings

- An Executive Session has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 4:00 pm to discuss a real property transaction pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D).
- A special public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm to discuss the 2022 Budget.

Claim Docket

\$283,950.46 in claims were paid.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- Casey Boggs and crew have been continuing with preparations for the upcoming Pierceton Days Festival by sweeping streets and freshening up the mulch and landscaping.
- A meeting with representatives from Peerless Midwest was rescheduled. They will be discussing options regarding our wells. One well has higher amounts of iron.
- The town was not able to get an apprentice through Alliance so Casey would like to begin the hiring process for a Sewer Plant Operator. His plans are to start collecting applications now and start interviews next month.
- Quotes for the roads have been completed for the Community Crossings Matching Grant.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- The State of Indiana's 40 hrs pre-basic training has started for the two reserve officers.
- There is no current updated information regarding the grant for new radios.
- Office Sammons advised that he will be receiving assistance with security during the Pierceton Days Festival from members of the Pierceton Cadet Program.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- The Kosciusko County Foundation Grant for Christmas Lights will be determined by October.
- Bar 13 is currently selling t-shirts and all proceeds will be donated to the Christmas Lights Fund.
- Resolution 7-1-21 was approved to transfer \$220 from EDIT to the HSA Fund in order to bring that Fund out of the red. This is being done at this time in order to submit a clean report to the DLGF for the budget.
- NIPSCO has not yet approved the hero signs being attached to their poles. Myra will stay on this to get that approval.
- Myra and Casey have been working with MACOG in completing the application for the Community Crossings Matching Grant. The estimate for the road work is \$209,185. The council approved the matching funds in the amount of \$52,296.25 and Council President signed the Financial Commitment Letter that is needed for the grant application process.

Park Update from Annie Espinoza

- The Recreation Board (referred to as the Park Board) made a recommendation to the Town Council to terminate the lease with the Pierceton Youth League due to a lack of compliance to the terms of the lease which included the failure to pay the reduced lease amount of \$750, failure to obtain background checks on coaches, assistant coaches and umpires, failure to provide proof of liability insurance and failure to ensure that Kosciusko County Health Department COVID-19 protocols were being followed. A draft of a letter composed by Town Attorney Tammy Keirn was approved with a 3-0 vote to be sent to the Pierceton Youth League president Jason Shepherd. Mr. Shepherd will have ten days from the date of the letter to return all keys to the clerk's office.
- Annie advised that there were a number of concerned parents at the Park meeting on Wednesday, July 7th who were ready to step up to help with the youth league. Two of those parents were present; Mike Pherigo and Heather Jackson. They discussed with Council the last Pierceton Youth League activity for the season which will take place on a weekend in August. Heather will see if they can get

liability insurance to cover the one event. Also, town clerk, at the direction of council, will check with the town insurance to see if that can be obtained through the town policy and reimbursed by the Pierceton Youth League once new leadership takes over.

- The Community Park was vandalized again during the night of July 5th or morning of July 6th. The garage door of the concession building was destroyed and entry to the building was obtained. Fireworks was also put in a toilet in the men's restroom the toilet was destroyed. Fireworks were also set off in the women's restroom leaving marks on the floors.

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. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn had issued a warning letter allowing the property owners until July 5, 2021 to make progress with the clean-up. Kim provided pictures to the council of before and after pictures of the clean-up thus far. She stated that her parents are unable due to age and health to do the clean-up and she is doing her best to clean it up herself. Steve Dickens who registered the complaint against the property owners was also present. He was unsatisfied at the speed that this issue was being dealt with by the Council. Council members Mandy Espinoza and Matt Brubaker made Mr, Dickens aware that they were advised about the complaint in June so there was no need to rehash the events prior. Mr, Dickens took ownership of the property in April. Matt Brubaker asked Kim if the property could be clean in 90 days. She said it could. Matt made the motion to allow the property owners until October 12, 2021 to clean up the property and if it is not cleaned on that day, the fines which are now being placed on hold will be due. Mandy seconded the motion and voted 3-0 to allow the additional clean up time.

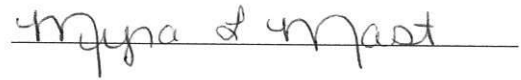
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on July 12, 2021 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer

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

Council President

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

Clerk-Treasurer