

**Town of Pierceton**  
Council Public Meeting Minutes  
Pierceton Community Building  
May 9, 2022  
6:30 pm

**Opening**

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

**Present**

Council members Mandy Espinoza, 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 April 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. The minutes for a special council meeting held on April 27, 2022 at 5:00 were also approved.

**Claim Docket**

\$80,486.70 in claims were paid.

**Billing Adjustments**

\$280.30 utility account adjustments.

**Streets, Water, Sewer – Casey Boggs**

- Town Superintendent Casey Boggs advised council that the town mower is in need of being replaced. He has priced the eXmark mower at \$19,000. He will see what he can get for the old mower as a trade in. The Council approved the purchase of the mower. Council President Mandy Espinoza stated that Casey could work with Clerk Myra Mast to determine which Funds could be used for the purchase
- The town Tool Cat and a replacement bed for one of the town trucks will also need replaced. Casey is currently working on quotes for both.
- The board for the noon siren has not been received yet.
- Casey praised the work of seasonal employee James Ault. Casey stated that with James tending to the mowing, he can concentrate on other duties and not focus on the mowing tasks.

- Casey and Mandy met with the engineers from Fleis & Vanderbrink. They will be a huge help with finding grants to suite the town's projects
- The IDEM inspection on April 26<sup>th</sup> well very well.

#### **Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons**

- Body-worn grant was applied for. Two body armor units that the PPD currently uses will expire soon. These are five-year units. If the grant is approved, it will cover 50% of the cost of \$2536.00.
- New radios should start to be installed this week.
- The PPD will start enforcing the junk vehicle ordinance for a Spring clean-up. Warnings and violations will be issued. Vehicles need to have a valid registration, be operational and need to show movement every fifteen days.

#### **Clerk's Report – Myra Mast**

- Utility Supply has advised that the equipment has been ordered for the meter reader upgrade for the water department and will be received in September.
- Information for the TRECS (Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System) program was provided to the Town Council for review and will be presented for discussion and approval during the June meeting.
- Boyce-Keystone is charging \$545 for format changes related to the water reader upgrade.
- Matt Brubaker motioned to approve SBOA school for Deputy Clerk Kelly Engle. The training will be held in Michigan City June 14-15. Clerk Myra Mast will also be attending as the school is mandated by the state. The motion passes with a 3-0 vote. Because the office will be closed for the training, the council also approved a delayed due date for utility bills for June. Instead of being due on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the June payments will now be due on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Casey Boggs will be available to empty the payment drop box while the office staff are in training.
- Ordinance 2022-5-1 was presented to create the Unsafe Building Fund 2234. This fund is being created to receive and expend money in relation to the demolition of unsafe buildings in the town. Matt Brubaker motioned to approve the ordinance. Tom Barker seconded. The ordinance was approved with a 3-0 vote.

#### **Park Report by Annie Espinoza**

- Annie Espinoza provided a quote for security cameras for the Community Park from the Cottage Watchman.
- Woods Academy will be contacted in regards to park picnic tables being reconditioned.
- \$750 was received from one of the vandals of the skate park.

- Annie asked council for approval of up to \$500 to replace rubber mulch at the playground at the Community Park. Council approved with a 3-0 vote.

#### **Christmas Lights Committee – Stephanie Campbell**

- The laundry soap fundraiser is complete and, though money was raised, it was not as successful as 2021.
- The next fundraiser will be Christmas ornament sales and dessert sales during the Fire Department fish fry on May 14, 2022.
- Stephanie expressed frustration with the food truck being asked to move during the Spring Chamber event. Mandy Espinoza had asked the vendor to move due to his concern that the ground was wet and would damage the park lawn. The vendor had to drive to Fort Wayne to retrieve a hitch and decided to take his trailer and leave. No money was raised for the Christmas Lights. Backwoods BBQ raised around \$1000 for the lights in 2021.

#### **Pierceton Chamber of Commerce – Kelsea Degaetano**

- Kelsea was concerned also about the incident with the food truck.
  - Kelsea asked why council could not have talked and worked out the issue. It was advised that per state statutes town decisions cannot be made by council outside of public meetings.
  - Tom Barker stated that planning is critical and chamber should attend council meetings to keep council informed.
  - Kelsea was concerned that there was no collaboration between council and chamber. She stated that the business owners do not know council members which causes a separation.
  - Kelsea advised that this is a new council and they should not be judged by the past Chamber. She said she would have made a work day and repaired damage herself.
  - Dawn Boggs, owner of Beyond the Barn, stated that Kelsea is doing a knock-up job as president of the chamber and worked hard for the Spring event. The events from last Friday did affect the bottom line of the businesses. When decisions are made, how it affects everyone should be considered.
  - It was agreed that better communication is a goal.
- Matt Brubaker motioned to approve the use of Brower Park for the Antique Motorcycle show on May 21<sup>st</sup> and to close Market Street from State Road 13 to Washington Street. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

### Other Business

- Jim Anderson who has access to his driveway from the alley off of South Second Street asked that potholes be filled near the entrance to his drive. Casey will take a look at it and repair the holes.
- In reference to paving Second Street Extended, Matt Brubaker stated that the council has to look at how many residents are affected by the alleys that get paved and it may not be the best choice to pave a street to nowhere that may only service two or three people over an alley that is used by more residents.
- Greg Chism asked about future internet service to the newly developed area of Washington and Ash Streets. Casey has recently received information regarding the possibility of Comcast coming to the area.

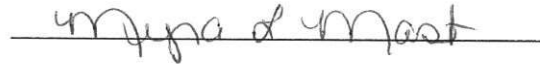
### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on June 13, 2022 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer per notes from Casey Boggs.

  
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Vice

Council President

  
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Clerk-Treasurer