

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
October 11, 2021
6:42 pm

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Town of Pierceton opened directly following the Budget Adoption which opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Present

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

Absent

Council member Matt Brubaker.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the council meeting held on September 13, 2021 at 6:35 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. Minutes for a Special Council Meeting held on October 7, 2021 at 10:00 am were also.

Claim Docket

\$92841.48 in claims were paid.

ADA Public Hearing – 6:42 – 6:47 pm

- A hearing was opened to public comment concerning the ADA transition plan put forward by the Town Council of Pierceton. There were no comments or questions.
- Resolution 10-1-21 was approved designating the sitting Clerk-Treasurer as the ADA coordinator for the Town of Pierceton. The Town Council resolves to post the information regarding the ADA coordinator, the Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Town of Pierceton Grievance Procedure on its website.

- Resolution 10-2-21 for the town to adopt the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Standards for Accessible Design was approved with a 2-0 vote.
- Resolution 10-3-21 to adopt the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan for pedestrian facilities in the public right of way was also approved with a 2-0 vote. The transition plan was presented at the September 13, 2021 meeting and was open for public review and comments or questions up to the October meeting.
- The hearing was closed and the monthly council meeting proceeded at 6:47 pm.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- Peerless Midwest is waiting on the impeller to replace in the high service pump #2. The supplier has pushed back delivery to the first week of November.
- Casey reported that he was able to get clarification of the effectiveness of the filter upgrade. The new quote from Endustra Filter Manufacturers is \$2995.
- Eastern Research Group has organized a free training session for town representatives that will take place on October 26th and will be held in the Town of Pierceton's Community Room. Representatives from Milford, Syracuse, Etna Green and Silver Lake will be attending as well as Pierceton's Clerk Myra Mast and Casey Boggs.
- Casey provided council with fence quotes to replace the fence at the entrance to the Community Park and at the Water Department. The quotes were provided by Custom Fencing, Inc and cover both galvanized and black. The black is said to last another 15 years or so.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- The grant for the radio upgrade has been denied by Indiana Homeland Security. Per Town Marshal Sammons, all grants were denied as they were overwhelmed with applicants. Sammons will be meeting with the county commissioner on October 12, 2021 in hopes of finding other assistance with the purchase. The eight portable radios and four car radios will cost the town \$56,000.
- Officer Ashley Jones is in academy training and will complete training in December.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- Myra reported to council that the 2022 benefits through AIM Medical Trust which includes employee health and vision insurance has a reduced cost and will save the town over \$5000 in 2022.

- Myra presented information to council regarding a time tracker system with QuickBooks Intuit. This will allow employees to clock in and out, request time off, and track vacation and sick time banks. Employees would be required to download the time tracker app on their town provided cell phones. Managers will be able to track the location of employees also which will help with time management and liability issues. Council President advised he would like to revisit this when Council Member Matt Brubaker is present to join in the discussion.
- A Christmas Lights Committee update was provided by Myra Mast. The committee has purchased seven large display pieces from Artistic Holiday Design and have a large Santa with sleigh display on hold with Herman Tool in Pierceton. The committee would also like to plant a live tree in Brower Park for a tree lighting each year. Tom Barker requested the Town Superintendent take a look at where utility lines run through the park which includes electric and sprinkler system in order to determine if that will be possible.

Parks

- The Pierceton-Washington Township Park officially closed on October 1, 2021.
- The recreation board will be concentrating on ideas for ways to use the K21 grant to improving the health and wellness of the Pierceton community at their upcoming meetings the first Wednesday of each month.

Council

- Mandy Espinoza presented an update regarding the property at 306 S Third Street which is owned by Lee Newswanger. Mandy is also on the board with Area Plan and stated that the alley that Newswanger would like to have vacated is also the access to the neighbor's garage. If the alley is vacated, the neighbor would have a garage that is landlocked. The only way that the alley can be vacated would be if the two property owners could come up with an agreement on the use of the vacated property. Mandy has made several attempts to contact Lee but has not been able to connect with him as of the time of the council meeting.
- Tom Barker spoke about the rate increases discussed at the Special Council Meeting held on October 7, 2021. Per the study completed by Baker Tilly earlier in the year, the town will move forward with the process to increase the water and sewer rate. Trash collection fees will also increase from \$9 to \$11 beginning in January 2022. Non-sufficient check fee will be raised from \$9 to \$25. The rental rate for the Community Room will be raised from \$75 to \$100 with the cleaning deposit to remain at \$75 but will need to be presented at time the room is reserved. The council has also discussed the implementation of other fees such as

sewer tap fees, return trip fees, customer requested meter reads and meter tampering fees.

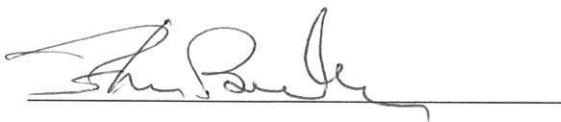
Other Business

- Kim Rose was present representing her parents who are owners of property located on Keith Street that had been previously ticketed for junk in the yard. Mandy made a motion to dismiss the ordinance violations against the Hartups since the property has been cleaned up to the satisfaction of the council. Tom Barker seconded and the motion was approved with a 2-0 vote.
- Resident Greg Chism announced that Tri-Lakes Container has officially changed its name to Welch Packaging. The company purchased the business a year ago but they were still running under the Tri-Lakes Container name. He said that Welch would like to what they can do for the Town of Pierceton. Tom Barker mentioned the possibility of the town needing to obtain the current drive that runs between the Dollar General Store. Annie Espinoza suggested they contact the Pierceton Youth League which has just established a new board and need financial assistance.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on November 8, 2021 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer