

Town of Pierceton
Special Council Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
October 7, 2021 @ 10:00 am

Purpose of Meeting

A special meeting of the Town of Pierceton was held to discuss possible rate increases for town utilities and fees.

Present

Council members Tom Barker, Armando Espinoza. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Utility Superintendent Casey Boggs.

Discussion

- In regards to the rate study submitted by Baker Tilly, the Council discussed the proposed rate increases and considered the recommendations necessary but made no final decision at this time. Baker Tilly will be contacted to arrange a time for Casey, Myra and Tammy to meet virtually to plan the next steps. Clerk Treasure Myra Mast also pointed out that the town would cover the full increase in the water hydrant rental from the General Fund to the Water Department to deflect a charge from being added to customer billings to cover the amount.
- The current trash rate is not bringing in enough revenue to pay the Sweetheimer contract. In order to cover the full trash contract, rates need to be raised from \$9 per month to \$11. Council agreed this would be a necessary increase also. Myra will begin working on the process for this change to be implemented with the January 2022 billing.
- Casey discussed adding fees due to time spent by staff on issues that would be the resident responsibility such as resident requested meter re-reads, inspection of possible leaks, return trip fee and meter tampering fee. Tap fees for sewer do not currently exist. It was discussed to add a connection fee which includes the inspection by town staff. A fee for a reconnection after shut off of services was also discussed.
- The council considered whether or not the current late fees are enough to deter customers from paying late every month and should be raised.
- The current check return fee is only \$9. Though the clerk's office does not see very many returned checks, the rate does need to be increased. The suggestion was to increase the fee to \$25 per returned check.
- Myra Mast suggested a raise in the rental fee of the Community Room from \$75 to \$100. The cleaning deposit amount would remain at \$75 but would be required in advance in order to hold the room. The group discussed the room being

reserved by one of the organizations in town that use the room at no charge possibly being charge a cleaning deposit and, if the room is reserved for multiple dates beyond the normal use, anything beyond a four-week time period will need to be presented to the Council for approval.

- The Council also made the decision to set the Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours to 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer