

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
September 12, 2022
6:30 pm

Present

Council President Mandy Espinoza. Council members Tom Barker and Matt Brubaker. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Interim Town Marshal Ashley Jones

Budget Hearing

At 6:30 pm the budget hearing was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Council President Mandy Espinoza read the budget notice. There was no comments or questions from the public in attendance so Matt Brubaker motioned to adjourn the hearing at 6:33 pm.

The regularly scheduled Council Meeting opened at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the council meeting held on August 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. Also approved were minutes from the special council meetings held on September 6, 2022 and executive sessions held on August 24, 2022, September 6, 2022 and September 9, 2022.

Claim Docket

\$95,352.11 in claims were paid.

Billing Adjustments

\$319.38 in utility account adjustments.

Guests

- Alan Tio from KEDCO presented a quarterly update.
 - KEDCO is building capacity to sustain Entrepreneurship, Housing and Talent.
 - Scott Werstler is the contact for new company start-ups.
 - Developing a customer service model.
 - Adding project management staff.
- Chad Salzbrenner from Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering.

- Chad presented a Professional Service Agreement to council which secures the services with a lump sum fee of \$13,600. The agreement is beneficial to the town in establishing plan for where the town wants to be in ten years. Matt Brubaker motioned to approve the agreement, Tom Barker seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- The council reviewed information provided by Casey Boggs regarding the repair of the McNamara clock in Brower Park. After troubleshooting with a tech from Verdin Clock Company, it was determined that the clock was not able to be repaired and that a controller needed to be replaced. The controller would cost \$740 plus shipping and handling. Jonah will be able to install the controller which will save the town in travel and labor in the amount of \$685. The council approved the purchase of the controller with a 3-0 vote and will be expended from the park improvement appropriation.

Pierceton Police Department

- Mandy Espinoza, council president, explained that the council held several executive sessions to interview applicants for the Town Marshal position. Each council member was provided a list of the applicants by the town clerk where the applicants were assigned a letter in order to keep the selection anonymous so that the individual would be able to notify his current employer before the press could make the announcement. Matt Brubaker motioned to offer the position to applicant E. Tom Barker seconded and the vote carried 3-0. Matt will finalize the offer and notify the other applicants of the decision.

Park – Annie Espinoza

- The recreation board will have a year-end meeting with the Pierceton Youth League in October.
- Annie attended a meeting along with council vice-president Matt Brubaker and other representatives from the town to discuss the K21 grant that was awarded to the town in 2019 and possible park upgrades.

Pierceton Chamber of Commerce

- The Chamber at their monthly meeting in September to make the Animal Welfare League the focus of their fundraiser event Crows for a Cause which will take place in the month of October.

Christmas Lights Committee – Stephanie Campbell

- Council approved for an existing tree that is not in good health located in front of the PPD to be removed and replaced with a tree that can be decorated for Christmas. Stephanie and Matt Brubaker will work with Matt Tracy from Horizon Landscapes to determine the best tree for the location and purpose. This tree will be dedicated to the brother of former Jeffrey Sammons who was killed fighting a fire in Larwill in 1997. Jeffrey was also the brother of former Town Marshal Tim Sammons.

Clerk's Report – Myra Mast

- The council was presented with information regarding employee benefits. AIM Medical Trust is the current provider for health and vision benefits. Our rates with them will increase in 2023 1.9%. AIM also have dental, basic life and accidental death insurance that is comparable with the current policy the town has with Principal Financial. However, the plan with AIM will save the town over \$30 per person per month and the basic life and AD&D insurance will increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Council voted to keep the current coverage with AIM and add the dental, basic life and AD&D benefits to the plan also.
- The Town of Pierceton has been participating in the HELP program with Kosciusko County. The program was established by OCRA to help the county and the small communities in the county to find the best ways to use the ARPA grant. Pathway committees were formed in four categories: Advancing E-Connectivity, Enhancing Quality of Place, Promoting Community Wellness and Strengthening Local Economies. Committee Members were approached by town clerk Myra Mas and asked to participate. There were two people for each committed to represent Pierceton. On September 6, 2022, a special council meeting was held to hear the presentation from the Pathway members. They presented projects that they believed would benefit the town. The town council voted to make a Heated Pole Barn for indoor recreation their capstone projects. All other projects will be compiled for future potential investors.

Council

- Council voted and determined the Halloween Trick or Treat hours will be from 5:00-7:30 pm on October 31st.
- Matt Brubaker announced that a memorial was presented to Georgia Tenney on Sunday, September 11th in honor of Bob Tenney. Donations were gathered and Matt Tracy donated labor to create the memorial that is located at the Pierceton/Washington Township Community Park. Bob Tenney spent many years mowing at the park. No town funds were contributed towards the memorial.

Responses to Public Questions and Concerns

- The usual questions and comments regarding unsafe buildings.
- Complaints regarding lawns not mowed.
- The warning siren broken at the fire station. There are issues with finding parts for the repair.
- Can parking spaces near the intersection of Market and SR 13 be removed to make the intersection safer? That would be an issue for INDOT since they are on a state road.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on October 10, 2022 at the Pierceton Community Building.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer.



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer