

Town of Pierceton
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Pierceton Community Building
September 13, 2021
6:35 pm

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Town of Pierceton opened with the Pledge of Allegiance directly after the adjournment of the budget hearing.

Present

Council members Tom Barker, Mandy Espinoza and Matthew Brubaker. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Town Marshal Tim Sammons (arrived late). Utilities Superintendent Casey Boggs.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the council meeting held on August 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Pierceton Community Building were approved by council. Minutes for a Special Council Meeting held on September 2, 2021 at 4:00 pm were also approved along with Executive Session Minutes from September 1, 2021 also held at 4:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Budget Adoption will be held at 6:30 pm on October 11, 2021 with the regular Monthly Council Meeting following.

Claim Docket

\$112,761.49 in claims were paid.

Streets, Water, Sewer

- Peerless Midwest removed high service pump #2 for the overhaul. The impeller was in very poor condition which is being replaced along with a faulty butterfly valve.
- Endustra Filter Manufacturers examined the town blower filters and provided a quote to replace the three housings and upgrade to the conical filters. The quote is in the amount of \$2995. They are projecting the town could save up to \$303.92 per month in energy costs which currently run close to \$4500 per month at the wastewater plant. Casey is still researching and is not seeking a decision on approval at this time.

- Eastern Research Group Inc returned on September 1st with the IDEM inspector and toured the water plant with Casey. They will be assisting us with SOPs, inspection logs, asset management plan, sampling and analysis plan. Backwash efficiency along with finding and writing grants. The EPA has provided this company with a grant in order to help small communities such as Pierceton.
- Casey reported that due to obvious theft from our fire hydrants, he does not see the value in the Town selling water anymore from the hydrants. This has created more work for the small crew and there is no time for them to police the hydrants to make sure water is not being stolen. He suggested that if we do plan to continue to sell water in this manor, the Town may need to consider raising water rates for these sales and/or include a service fee. Tom Barker suggested that a future filling station may be needed to provide water sales that would be more efficient. Council agreed to discontinue the bulk water sales until a plan can be devised to monitor the sales.

Police Report from Town Marshal Tim Sammons

- Deputy Marshall Ashley Jones is currently enrolled in the policy academy and is taking class room coursed in Warsaw Monday – Friday. Her graduation is scheduled for December of 2021.

Clerk-Treasurer Report from Myra Mast

- Ordinance 2021-2-1, an ordinance that established a Covid 19 employee policy, was extended by council until December 31, 2021.
- The town recently received notice that we may not be compliant with the Title II and the ADA laws and regulations. MACOG did prepare an ADA transition plan for the town in July. Casey made necessary changes and this was submitted to INDOT and they have labelled Pierceton as making a good faith effort. The plan is located at the Town Clerk's Office and is available to view or receive a copy per request. There are also Public Comment and Response forms for the public that will need to be turned in to the clerk no later than October 8, 2021.

Other Business

- Matt Thomas, Maintenance and Facilities Manager at Paragon Medical was present seeking Council approval for a few issues that arose in conversations with Area Plan. Council reviewed the site map provided and approved the plan except for the drive onto 250 South. The drive shown is too close to State Road 13. Matt advised it would not be an issue to move the drive back further. Utilities Superintendent, Casey Boggs, also advised that there were no issues with the tie in access to water and sewer per the site map. A letter of this approval would be emailed to Matt Sandy with area plan and copied to Matt Thomas.

- Annie Espinoza asked if a fall town clean-up was being planned. Council Member Matt Brubaker advised nothing was planned for this year and it all depended on funds for future clean-ups as the town flips the bill.
- Lee Newswanger, property owner at 306 S Third Street, was present questioning a request to vacate the alley adjacent to the South side of his property. He was advised that would need to go through Area Plan. The Pierceton Council would make the decision on that only after reviewed by Area Plan.
- 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. Their clean-up efforts have ended and she questioned if the tickets would be dismissed. Council President Tom Barker commented that he did not see any reason why the tickets would not be dismissed but wanted to hear comment from Town Marshall Timm Sammons before making a decision. The Hartups were given until October complete that clean up so Kim was asked to attend the October meeting at which time a decision would be made.
- Resident Bob Baker expressed concern regarding dilapidated properties in town and also the old semi-trailers on the North side of the viaduct on 3rd Street. Council and Town Attorney Tammy Keirn explained the process as we know it to process these houses which the Town is working on a way to address the issue. Concerning the semi-trailers, Town Marshall Tim Sammons stated that he believes the property was grandfathered in as commercial. Tammy will look through archives from former Town Attorney Jim Walmer regarding the property.
- Council Member Matt Brubaker advised that local company Lexlil is interested in purchasing a 1.94 acre lot in the Town's industrial park. Tammy Keirn advised appraisals of the property will be needed and will check into who should hold the responsibility for obtaining the appraisals, Lexlil or the Town.


Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on October 11, 2021 at the Pierceton Community Building immediately following the Budget Adoption.

Minutes Submitted by Myra Mast, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer