

Town of Pines Meeting

April 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:50 PM, due to technical difficulties with ZOOM. This meeting was held virtually via ZOOM for due to COVID. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. It is discussed first about the if next months meeting will be held in person or virtually. Reported COVID cases are down very low. Janice makes a motion to go back to regular meetings at the Town Hall, Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. The restrictions are discussed next. Janice states that she does not think that the number of people should not be limited. Vicki states that she thinks there should be no restrictions and masking at own discretion. Janice makes a motion to approve this suggestion by Vicki, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes.

This will be a regular open meeting. Restrictions to number of people and masking at the Town Hall have been removed. Mask use is advised at personal discretion.

James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were James Prast, Janice Lowe, Vicki Kuzio, and Shelby Mashburn. Philip Orlando was absent.

MINUTES

The minutes from the March 2,2022 meeting was reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made to approve the minutes by Janice, seconded by Vicki. Janice voted to accept; Vicki voted to accept; James voted to accept. Carried 3-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby asks Council about allowing Walsh, the company doing the work for the South Shore that is set up on US 12, to use the Town Hall “occasionally” for a span of 3 to 4 hours in the early morning. This would be solely for business meeting purpose like when the Fire Department used the Town Hall, not an event or party. James states that we would need to bring tables over for use for them and set up chairs if needed. James is in favor of it. Janice states we do need to establish a fee and rental agreement as we do with park rentals. James asks Shelby to draw up an offer for them. Shelby suggests making a general form for any future potential uses that are approved by Council as well, she can base this from our already developed rental agreement. Vicki agrees if they sign an agreement. Janice makes a motion to allow the South Shore to occasionally rent. Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Tammy Watkins corrects Council that it is Walsh Construction not the South Shore. Janice makes a motion to cancel the prior motion for South Shore and to change that motion to Walsh Construction. Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes.

Shelby presents the 2 ordinances that were presented at the last meeting again for voting.

The first ordinance is Ordinance 22-03-02-01 Debit/Credit Card Use Policy. Shelby asks if everyone has reviewed this and if there are any questions or comments. No questions or comment from Council.

Janice makes a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-03-02-01, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James Votes yes. Ordinance 22-03-02-01 Adopted.

The second Ordinance was 22-04-06-02 An Ordinance for the Capitalization Policy of the Town of Pines. This just covers and reiterates the already set Capital Assets Threshold of \$5,000.00. One requirement the Clerk Treasurers Office is requesting is an updated inventory list to the Clerk Treasurer's Office of all equipment with a purchase value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more, and/or anticipated life of three or more years and that within three working days of receipt of any "new to inventory" equipment, the department head shall add the equipment to the department's inventory list and provide a copy to the Clerk Treasurer's Office and remove retired equipment from the inventory. Vicki states she and Rob will work on that, and Shelby offers to provide an inventory sheet. Vicki states to let her know when one is ready, and they will do the inventory. This Ordinance is retro dated to January 1, 2022. This was formatted off Lake Stations Ordinance. Shelby asks for any questions or concerns with this ordinance. Janice makes a motion to accept Ordinance 22-04-06-02, Vicki seconds this. Janice votes yes, Vicki Votes yes, James votes yes. Ordinance 22-04-06-02 Adopted,

Shelby has not gotten an answer from anyone each time she has asked about the specifications of the easement for Highway US 12. She has reached out to Porter County Highway Department, and they advised to reach out to INDOT. Shelby has reached out to INDOT and is still waiting on a response to get this handled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tammy reports for the Fire Department. She states that there isn't much to report. Calls have slowed down compared to this time last year, but not much else is going on.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Vicki states that the slide is finally up at Pines Park, it will be ready to use in 3 to 4 more days. Rob will then remove the tape and test the slide.

Rob mentions that we do need to look into getting new mulch for both parks at least 4 and 5 inches of mulch at each park. Vicki states she will look for pricing if we can wait for May. Rob states that is okay as they will be doing brush pickup for the next month.

Vicki states that the dates she has slotted for Spring Cleanup are for May 14 and 15 with a pickup on May 16th and a second on May 28 and 29 with a pickup being the 30th. Council agrees to these dates. Shelby will order ink, paper, and stamps to get these printed when Vicki is ready.

Vicki is waiting to hear from Smalls about the Alley fill. The first alley to be addressed will be between 520 and Ash. The other 2 are under review with the Town and requirements for Smalls with access without obstructions (I.E., phone lines, power lines, low hanging limbs, and passage for machinery). Vicki hopes to hear back this week from them about scheduling. Vicki will notify resident surrounding any alleys being worked on so they can move and leave their homes as needed.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Jeff Burton at 1609 Main Street for a new house.

2702 West Dunes Highway received a permit for a new electrical panel.

The attorney and county surveyor are handling the situation with the Patino's property currently.

The SS Double Track project is underway. They are working through the night and there have been complaints of noise at night. This is out of the Town's jurisdiction, unfortunately.

OLD BUSINESS

It was brought to the Town's attention again about the Bird Sanctuary. James states that we need to get some people together to find out about this and what we would like to do, where it can go, and what the town would have to even do to join this group. The person who has been bringing this up will be contacted for more information per James as she is not at a meeting.

The Town is still in contact with Matt working on Florida.

The Cell Tower has been approved and notified of such. James has not heard back. Shelby has not heard anything either.

NEW BUSINESS

James went to see the Surveyor for information. James wants to meet with Carl at a point. He welcomes him to join in convo or in public comment, but there is no response.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Watkins makes the public comment that Michael Watkins lives in the Town now and this will aid in improved Firefighter response times. She also mentions that she is running for re-election of Pine Township Trustee. Rob also found and repaired the Two missing Town Signs. They had rotted through.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the March 2022. Janice makes a motion, Vicki seconds the motion. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer