

Town of Pines Meeting

August 3, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM. This meeting was a regular Council Meeting held at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 6, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. There will also be a 2023 Pre Budget Hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM before the Regular Council Meeting.

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

MINUTES

Shelby presents July Meeting Minutes. There was a correction to the date of the meeting minutes. Shelby made this change immediately to be reprinted. Janice made a motion to accept the minutes, James seconds. Janice votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby has still not heard back from Shawn with Hodges and Davis about the Highway 12 Easement Ordinance asked to be reviewed. He was out of office at the time of the original request. She will reach out to him again.

Shelby had the Budget Meeting with Wayne Hudson on July 29th to review the 2023 budget thus far and gateway submissions. He stated that everything looked good currently and we are scheduled to proceed with the Pre-Budget Hearing and Budget Adoption Meetings. The Pre-Budget Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM before the Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 PM. The Adoption Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday October 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM before the Regular Council Meeting, unless change required after Pre- Budget Hearing.

Shelby has questions regarding the leaf vac order for Council. She has spoken to Vern and everything we need will be with the Kit with Liner. Shelby will also order an extra set of nuts/bolts for that part as spares. The Company can paint this, Shelby suggests for the estimated cost of \$300 to have ODP professionally paint this new part, rather than it come to the Town Primed and needing painted still. James says to have them paint the new parts, and to call Vern.

DNA Auto has given us an estimate for the installation of the new leaf vac parts. Their estimate is \$950 for 10 hours of work. He stated that he does not think it will take that long, but he cannot guarantee due to the job type. Janice makes a motion to accept this estimate from DNA Auto for Leaf Vac work. James seconds the motion. Janice votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

Shelby has called around to junk yards regarding the 1998 Dump Truck. Paul's Junkyard in Westville was willing to tow the Truck away and scrap it, paying the Town \$450. Council and Public both state of multiple parties of interest for the Truck AS-IS. Due to multiple interested voices in the 1998 Truck, Council states that they would like to place the truck for bid. Shelby will write a post for this sale with the assistance of Jan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 40 Calls in July.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Vicki is out ill but has sent a message to Shelby to share.

Johns Tree Service is supposed to be out in the second week of August to do the cleanup of any small sticks and brush throughout the Town. This is NOT one of the semi-annual cleanups. This is an extra courtesy cleanup being done due to an excess of falling limbs from recent storms.

Vicki also reported that she is having issues with the pricing of mulch. It is much more costly than expected this year. She will let everyone know once she has more information.

Shelby has a question regarding the sale of the truck. She asks how Council would like to post this for bid. Shelby states that we can post to our website, NWI Times, Laporte Herald August, and our Facebook. Council wants to post in as many places as possible for this.

Rob asks about inventory for this year as Vicki has asked him about. This is the same inventory that is every year. They will be working on this in August to submit as required.

There is complaint of a low tree on Birch and Pine that is hanging low. The Bus for MCAS is concerned about hitting said branch. There are other branches around the Town that also can use to be trimmed as noticed by Rob already. Janice suggests asking if Johns Tree Service can help with this work or not. James asks for a list of where the trees are a hinderance.

BUILDING AND ZONING

There was a permit for Cell Tower on Florida Ave for the addition being put on the Tower.

Mike with Al and Sallys at 3221 W Dunes Highway got a permit for their new Tesela Charging Spot.

4190 W Dunes Highway has a permit for a home remodel.

There is a permit at 3140 W Dunes Highway for Roofing.

They also had a permit for new siding and shingles at 1615 Countyline Road.

Phil asked how many people on average are at park rentals. On average it seems there is an average of 20 people per rental. The only exceptions have been a Celebration of Life gathering, in which the renters rented their own porta-pottys, and the Pines School end of year park trip. Shelby also mentions that

there is a current issue that needs to be addressed with a potential water leak in the outdoor bathrooms. They are trying to figure out where the water is leaking from.

Phil asks if we have heard back about the water yet for the Town Residents. Shelby is working on sorting out off all the information sent from Chris with Michigan City Water Department.

Thate Survey is scheduled to be doing the survey for the area around the Patinos property in the month of August, they have confirmed this with Phil.

Phil also has found out that Abormache can do the surveying for the Pines Park for the potential fire station/town building for us instead of using a third party again such as Thate that will take longer.

OLD BUSINESS

James met with NIPSCO and Matt. NIPSCO feels that they have adequately repaired any damages caused by them. He will continue to work on this with Matt.

For 2023 CCMG work, we have had to remove Connecticut Street from the list of streets to be repaired with the upcoming year's grants. This is due to the current increase in cost of supplies and materials needed to do the paving. We are unable to do just the cul-de-sac for this area, because the grant is to be used for mill and fill and this type of work would not fall under that category. The Town is going to find out what else can be done for this area. This is needed for emergency access for emergency services as they have not been able to access a resident here, and this was brought to towns attention. Shelby suggests the possibility of Smalls helping with this if needed, as they did a good job with the alleyway issues. Council has the winter to think about how to best handle this in the spring while working with Matt, this should be addressed in the spring.

James has been trying to contact the Sheriff's office about the misuse of side streets by travelers as they are being directed to do so by Google Maps as a "shortcut". He has yet to contact them to discuss the matter. The concern is the speed and frequency of cars that are traveling these side streets being a hinderance to residents.

We have submitted CCMG work for 2023 already. This covers Railroad Ave as well in this. We have not heard back about approval yet but will hopefully soon. James is going to work on meeting with Val to make sure that the issues caused by brown and by the county portions are handled accordingly before the new chip and seal.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Loukia Verhage on Birch Street makes a statement to the Google Maps issue. She also points out another popular app used for travel is Waze. There are more apps available to use than just google maps. She also offers to assist if needed with any issues anyone is having with reading excel documents. She can assist in sorting and reading the information, if needed. Loukia also voices concern over the potential bathrooms at the Pines Park being abused. Shelby informs everyone these restrooms would be

locked as the ones at the Town Hall are. She also suggests that we may see an increase in rentals with having restroom availability at the Pines Park.

A resident asks about additional signage. James and Rob state that Vicki can order more signage as requested.

Kent Verhage asks if it is possible to get signage for the highways that this is a residential area, and that Semi's need to be aware and ease on breaking and other avoidable loud excess noise by their Trucks.

A resident voices concerns with getting more assistance from Porter County Sherriff's in the Pines for monitoring. There are multiple concerns of driving and speed in the Town. James states that due to availability of officers, they cannot always come out as we have requested them for things such as Halloween and they cannot be guaranteed to post cars for monitoring services.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the July 2022 Claims, James Seconds. Janice votes yes. James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer