

## Town of Pines Meeting

### December 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held as an open meeting with restrictions, meeting was shared virtually via ZOOM for residents who are unable to come to the Hall. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. This will be the End of year Meeting located at the Town Hall, with restrictions. The COVID-19 Town Hall Meeting Restrictions are still in place until further notice; Masks must be worn in the Hall, Six (6) foot social distancing, and maximum occupancy of 20 people. There will be NO MEETING in January 2022. Next regular Council Meeting to be Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

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

### MINUTES

The Minutes from the November 3, 2021, 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 presents Council with information from NIPSCO regarding LED Light Status Upgrades. This is at no cost to the Town of Pines or to any Town Residents. This is a free upgrade offered by NIPSCO for NIPSCO owned lights. This offer is to replace 61 lights within the Town with either 4000K LED (standard) or 3000K (alternative) during Spring of 2022. These upgrades will save on energy costs, incentive program with NIPSCO, speed of light, and clarity of lighting. Shelby asks Council if they would like to proceed with this, and if so what lighting they would like to choose. Vicki recommends to go with the 4000K lighting, Janice agrees. Janice makes a motion to accept this contract with NIPSCO to upgrade the 61 lights, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

The yearly Auto Owners Insurance Audit is underway again. Amy Bradford is running this audit again this year. Shelby has provided her with all of the required information, but Amy is still processing the Audit. Once this is complete, Shelby will share the information with Council.

Shelby brings up the past topic of buffing the Town Hall floors. This was last completed in August of 2016 with a recommendation of being done every 3 months until the proper wax levels were built. It looks to have never been done again. The other topic is the "Men's Restroom" toilet, which is leaking a blue tint. Shelby has called Flushmate about it, they deny any issues or reason for this blue coloring. They insist that we had to pour something into the black tank, which we know has not happened. Shelby suggests replacing the toilet overall, when repairing the restroom to become ADA compliant. It is suggested by Jan to replace these with normal toilets instead of these with the black interior tanks due to cost and known recall issues. Council agrees to look into doing this with the remodel work.

Regarding the floors, Shelby will reach out to companies for quotes for buffing the floors.

Shelby presents Ordinance 2021-12-01-02 for closure of an alleyway as requested by Jeff Burton. The description is as follows: "All that part of 16' wide Public Alley in the Town of Pines, Indiana, lots 1-4 blk 158- 32A, Lakeshore Lots 5-8 & Pt9 Blk 158., F. H. Bartletts Lakeshore unit 2 Lots 33-40 Block 158 164A, Bartlett's Lakeshore Addition in Porter County, Indiana". This closure was previously approved by council, as Mr. Burton owns all surrounding property. Public Notices have been run in the Legal Publishing's of 2 local papers. Janice votes to pass this ordinance, Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Ordinance passed 3-0. The ally as described above is closed as of 12/01/2021. Mr. Burton will be send the required billing for the legal published.

Shelby brings up the issue of the desktop in the Clerks Office. She has recently taken 2 days to even try to save all the ordinances and codes to send to Municode. It took 30 minutes to do twice the amount of work from the new laptops. Unfortunately, a desktop is required by Keystone for our programs we use. Council agrees for Shelby to begin looking for a new computer for the Hall office.

Shelby asks about the End of Year meeting. She offers the dates of December 28, 29, 30, 31. The last Wednesday is the 29<sup>th</sup>, due to New Year's this is recommended as the date. Council agrees and request to keep the standard time of 6:30 PM. The End of Year meeting will be held Wednesday December 29, 2021, at 6:30 PM. There will be no January 2022 meeting. The next Regular Council meeting will be held Wednesday February 2, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

The final papers from the CCMG 2021 Road Paving have been received. There was a difference in cost of -\$4813. The work cost just a little less than expected. Council accepts this difference. Janice makes a motion to approve the payment and invoice. Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Fire Department had 21 Calls. 14 EMS assists, 4 car accidents, 1 fire alarm, 2 open burns (one was listed as a house fire) and 1 house fire.

The Annual Contract is up for the Pines Fire Department. There is a change in cost of services from \$1830 a month to \$2196 a month. Janice votes to accept this Contract, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0. The contract has a typo, Tammy Watkins will correct this and present Council with a proper copy.

Jan and Tammy discuss the ways in which we can help the fire department to meet their needs with equipment. Jan is still looking for more helpful possibilities. She will try to have more information at the next meeting.

#### **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Rob is still doing leaf pickup, until the snow.

The slide at Pines Park has been removed in preparation for the new slide. There is no change yet in the order status.

The portable generator has been purchased and is ready for use for the new slide install.



Porter county has to come and address the compost pile as it is getting very full.

It is also brought to the attention of council that multiple homeowners have been blocking streets with Leaves. It is requested that we reach out to residents who are doing so. The house being specifically mentioned is at the intersection of Ash and Pine as the road was blocked by leaves. Council will brainstorm ideas for updating the flyers for next year.

Vicki has heard from Porter County and they said if we do not follow their trick or treat for Porter County, they will not supply support for Trick or Treat.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING**

Phil is out sick, and nothing was shared to present. Phil will present at the next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Vicki opens with stating that she is still working on the filling of the alleyways. She hopes to have more answers by the next meeting.

Janice brings up Title VI update that needed to be updated on file to be added to the code of ordinances to protect the town and members against discrimination. 2021-12-01-03. This is not a new change or anything, it is just updated and better defined, with proper contact information for any grievances that need filed. Vicki makes a motion to accept this ordinance, Janice seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki Votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

James brings up the discussion of the Cell Tower with Dish Network. They are requesting an increase on the lot of building a platform that is 5 ft x7ft for equipment and electrical work for DISH. This will still all be contained in the current fencing and will not be outstretching onto any new lots. We will receive 30% of what will be earned for rent of the Tower.

James has a request of information from us. Shelby will find out more information about what it is.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vicki requests the leaf weigh for EPA from Rob. He said he will get her those numbers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Art Garcia brings Council photos of the Tires located on Maine Ave. He is informed that the residents with the issue have been advised as to how to remove and dispose of the tires. Art also presented photos of concrete blocks placed along the property edge. They were told they had to move them off town property and onto their own. They have moved 19 blocks to line their property (as if it were a fence). These are large 3FTx3FTx3FT concrete blocks such as those from construction sites. Art approached Mr Patino in early November when he was seen placing the blocks with a backhoe. He asked about his permit and the wall following town codes. Art states that this is depreciating the value of his home being a neighboring home. They had a building permit for a 3 ft iron fence but nothing for the blocking. Concerns are not only with appearance but as to the safety with traffic and potential accidents, as well as the weigh being placed on waterlines and their weight compromising lines.

James states that at this time this situation needs to be handed over to the lawyer for advisement as to what to do.

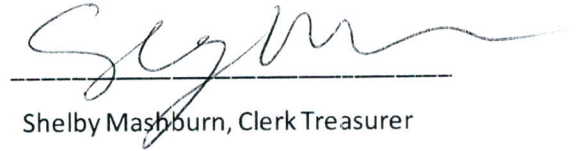
CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims, 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 8:00 P.M*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Prast', written over a horizontal line.

James Prast, President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shelby Mashburn', written over a horizontal line.

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer