

Town of Pines Meeting

December 29, 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, February 2, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. This may be held virtually, due to COVID 19. 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, Janice Lowe, Phillip Orlando, and Shelby Mashburn.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the December 1, 2021, meeting was reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made to approve the minutes by Janice, seconded by James. Janice voted to accept; James voted to accept. Carried 2-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby has not heard back from Amy from Auto Owners Insurance regarding our annual audit.

Shelby is still trying to find someone willing and able to properly clean and wax the Town Hall floors.

James suggests a neighbor of his that does cleanings. He states that he can contact them and see if this is a job they can quote.

Shelby is waiting for the check paid to Milestone to be deposited so that she can send out the final CCMG 2021 Paperwork.

Shelby is still looking into information about upgrading the Clerk Treasurer computer as the current desktop is having issues. She will double check about how to get the program transferred by Keystone once a new computer is established.

Shelby brings to the attention of Council an email from Art Garcia asking to reach out to the lawyer regarding the ongoing issues with Pinney and Maine streets. He also mentions that he has removed the tires that were on the roadside.

Shelby presents Council with the Salary Ordinance of 2022. She reads off the ordinance for the record as requested by James. There were no questions from council. Janice makes a motion to accept Ordinance 2021-12-29-04 Salary Ordinance for 2022. James seconds the motion. Janice votes yes. James votes yes. Ordinance Passed 2-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 19 Calls for the month and 192 for the Year. 17 EMS assists, 1 car fire, and 1 assist to Liberty Township.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Rob picked up 93 loads of leaves. He picked up longer than normal, if weather permitted.

Vicki is waiting to hear from Smalls for a timeframe on filling the Alleyways that need to be repaired.

Rob is also preparing for delivery of the slide.

James asks about availability to straighten signposts. He has noticed 2 posts that are crooked currently. He asks Rob to look at these signs and fix them if possible.

BUILDING AND ZONING

There was a permit issued for the Cell Tower location at Florida Ave. This is to upgrade the cell tower.

There was a permit at 675 E Railroad Ave for Thomas Boyd for rooftop solar panels.

There was a permit at 4053 W Dunes Highway for a roof.

The double track project is underway. The contract has been signed by Walsh Construction.

NIPSCO will also be putting in a new substation here. There were some issues with the flood plains. This should be addressed before they will proceed with the station.

James Bonevil with Municode has apologized for the delay in progress. They have had many employees out with COVID-19.

Phil has received two (2) bids for the window to the Clerk Treasurers office to meet ADA requirements. \$2100.00 from Marv Gunther and \$957.28 from Fernando Patnio. Since there is such a large price difference, Phil is requesting a more thorough breakdown of each quote.

Phil is still working to find a solution for the ADA Restroom requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

James asks if we have received a contract regarding the Cell Tower on Florida Ave. Before they can do the work as requested by the permit, the town needs a contract to have been received and agreed to. Phil will reach out and tell the requester that they cannot begin work until the contract is agreed to.

James mentions again the slide for the Pines Park. It has still not been received. It is estimated to be here at the end of January now, subject to change.

James asks how many trucks are available for plowing. Rob answers 3. The old dump truck with the leaf box on it, the old pickup, and the new dump truck. James asks Rob to check into tires for the truck that is having problems sliding in poor weather.

James brings back to table the idea of another building for units if needed for town use, as there are still 3 town vehicles outside. He asks about the lot given to the town by NIPSCO, Phil states he will find out

the specifics on the lot. Jan asks what about Pines Park. This would allow us to address many issues at the park such as restrooms for rentals, power to the park, security cameras, and more lighting.

It is also brought up by Rob the outdoor restrooms. The men's needs significant repairs. James asks if we can join the 2 bathrooms to make one new ADA compliant bathroom. James asks Rob to get with Phil and look at these bathrooms as well.

James brings up the topic of the blocks on Pinney. Phils states there has been a couple of complaints about the blocks and a few people calling them a nuisance. They were originally on Town property and were instructed to be moved. They are being called industrial blocks by people. Phil has reviewed County building codes. They do allow decorative blocks, but not industrial materials or old building supplies. Phil states that they are on Town property, and this is a problem though. Mr Patino says that other people throw garbage on his property and that his neighbor throws trash on his property. Phil states that his neighbor went and removed the tires on his own time, accord, and cost. That the Town had no part in that, it was the neighbor. James explains why it is a problem that the blocks are on Town property it is causing a liability for the Town, and it is not allowed. They must be moved. Mr Patino states this is his property not Town property. Janice asks if they have a legal survey. The Patinos answer yes. Janice requests a copy of this survey. Mary Patino agrees.

NEW BUSINESS

James states that we need to contact NIPSCO about Florida Ave and the back section with the work. That has to be addressed.

He states we also need to reach out to County with the continuation on 520 and the chip and seal . He will go forward and address both manners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Art Garcia asks about the blocks on Pinney Streets. He states that there are 19 of these on Pinney Street. Each cubic yard of concrete weighs 4050lbs. There is over 76,000 pounds of concrete among these blocks. He feels that these are a nuisance and an eyesore to his property. He reminds Council this is a R2 zone and industrial equipment doesn't belong.

Phil responds that there was no permit for these blocks. This was not permitted by the Town. The Town permitted the standard fencing. Art states he likes their fencing and their work on their home but has a problem with the blocks and barriers.

James states that this matter is going to be turned over to the lawyer for review. Janice also mentions that we need to have a standard set for our fencing and if this is to even be allowed for the town as we want to set a precedence and standard to bring our standards up in the Town.

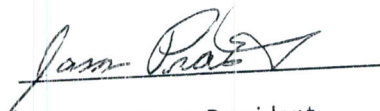
Mary Patino takes the floor. She states that her neighbor (Art) had been dumping on their property until he saw Mr Patino out working there and approached asking what he was doing over there. She states he told her he was dumping trash there. Mary states that they have the blocks and wire up because you cannot see late and anyone can pull back there and dump trash. She states that he is the only neighbor they have had any issues with. She states that they are continually working on their house. She states a complaint about the standing water there used to be. James states that the drainage issue has been fixed and should not be an issue again, it was caused by drains in highway 20.

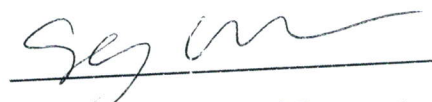
Janice asks why they want to use the blocks. The Patinos state that they want to put up a normal fence but cannot get the permit. Shelby asks what type of timeline to expect for the fencing to be completed and the blocks removed, as their house has been being "built" for 14+ years. Mary replies "Rome wasn't built in a day." Shelby asks again for a timeline for this work for the Town to expect the blocks to be removed, as it is a liability and a hazard for the Town. Mr Patino states that they will be done in 1 year. Janice states the Town cannot allow those blocks to stay for a year. James requests all the information for the Patino property to give to the lawyer. This subject will be reviewed by them. Once more information is found out it will be shared with each party.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims as well as the final bills that are to be due and incoming for 2021. Janice makes a motion, James seconds the motion. Janice votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M


James Prast, President


Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer