

Town of Pines Meeting

June 5, 2024

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, July 10, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. due to the July 4th Holiday.

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

MINUTES

Shelby presents the May Meeting Minutes, the audio was corrupted and would not play the 2nd half of the meeting. Janice makes a motion to approve the minutes, James seconds. Janice Votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

Matt Kaiser Abonmarche

Matt presents the CCMG 2024 Call 1. The recommended and most responsive bid to Reith Riley at a bid of 169667.85 Janice makes a motion to accept the bid from Reith Riley, Jame seconds. Janice votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0. The Streets to be paved are as follows: Henry Ave from Louisiana to Ardendale, Pinney from Maine to Ardendale, Johns from Idaho to Columbia, Florida Ave from 12 to Johns, Columbia from Johns to Second Pl, Delaware from 12 to Second Pl, California from 12 to 2nd Place, and First Street.

CLERK TREASURER

The edge of the street by Poplar and Pine is washed out still from the water works. Shelby will reach out to Chris about this.

Budget season is here. 2025 budget needs to be planned out. Shelby will present the meeting dates at our July meeting. Shelby asks about any requests to be considered to 2025 Budget. No requests from Council. Streets were increased last year for 2024.

James asks about Opioid Funding. Jan and Shelby state we can do further research.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 16 Calls in May, 4 within the Town of Pines. They are up to 15 medical assistant members. 6 EMT, 8 EMR, & 1 Paramedic.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Leaves were checked for the first time by the County. Rob repaired the gate as well.

The Ford F250 2015 needs a dipstick tube replaced, as well as the 4x4 repaired. It is currently broken and needs repaired before winter and plowing. Council requests Rob reach out with information from Ford once they look at the truck and they tentatively approve the repairs, so long as the cost is reasonable.

Council discusses Jons coming to chip branches again. They will wait until a later date with more branches to do a full town cleanup again.

BUILDING AND ZONING

There are no Permits for May.

The demolition is completed at Innovative Flavors. Paving on Calumet Trail is done.

2702 W Dunes is still in the process of being cleaned up. Progress is being made significantly.

1620 Columbia Megan McGuire Has gotten a letter sent to her about the state of the property. He has not heard anything from them yet. He is watching the property on the GIS portal.

Phil has the parcel 64-04-02-379-008.000-012 & 64-04-02-377-004.000-012 regarding the 2 properties NIPSCO is offering to test for Coal Ash that the Town Owns. Everyone is having difficulty getting straight answers from them.

Cathy Murray Speaks up regarding this situation, they have been contacted regarding that a representative has not come to the town as advertised. She asked Eric about this and he states that he is not sure what this is about. She reads off the information that she has received regarding the information.

3985 Hwy 20 Phil has spoken to Shawn about this building nothing has been done with it yet and he has been asked to begin the process of cleaning up the property. There has been someone selling on this property. Someone will check with Shawn or Monica or ask the merchant if theyre permitted to be there.

OLD BUSINESS

Working with the back street with the road work being done for the CCMG call 1.

Documenting all issues with water and flooding in sections of the roadways. Some of these issues are from Road way changes and some are from the swamp. As these issues are found, the town will be working to solve these issues so they stop happening.

NEW BUSINESS

Council will look into information about the Opioid Funding for the next meeting.

Saturday will be a large recycling event at Portage Highschool. They will accept documents to shred, gas cans, paint, household items. You can look on the door or the Porter County Website. They also list the other dates for the year.

Shelby asks if we have heard from Municode. Phil says that he will reach out to Shawn again. Everyone has been having issues with contacting him lately.

It is brought up that the 4th of July is the day after the meeting. Council all agrees to postpone the meeting to July 10th 2024 at 6:30 pm due to the Holiday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Murray 1621 Colorado, she asks about Council officially requesting in writing to Eric Hartman about setting up a visit/meeting to the Town of Pines, so that we can discuss issues with Coal Ash and other ongoing EPA issues.

She also mentions the 2 properties on Idaho and Florida. Dan with NIPSCO has not gotten back to anyone and has not done anything with the properties. Janice suggests that the Attorney is asked to write a formal letter regarding this situation and to follow through with getting these properties handled appropriately as they have Asbestos and contaminated ground.

Matt at 1692 California. He states that the EPA is not doing what they are stating they would. He is trying to find out if his property has been tested or not ever. He is unable to reach anyone to get this information.

Alan Murray, 1621 Colorado files a complaint about the dogs running loose on 2nd Place. He is again advised to call Porter County Animal Control and Porter County Sheriff's regarding any animals at large. Council again states that they will reach out to Shawn again about this issue with animals at large. She is also shared the animal control number with the meeting.

He asks about the trailer on the same property on 2nd Place. He states that it was being used for storage of windows and now there is no need for this. Why is it still there. Phil states that he will send a letter regarding this issue.

He also asks about the root cellar on this property. Phil states that the original building commissioner approved this cellar. Alan states this is him, but that people cannot live there. Phil states it was originally approved with a bathroom. Alan states he has never seen blueprints for this, but he approved the permit. Phil states all we can do is ask the attorney if they can go back on something or not.

Alan asks about DNA Auto and all their tires on the property. Phil has given them a verbal request. He will now start the letters to them requesting that this be cleaned up.

Alan asks about Railroad Ave, Phil states that they are waiting for response from the attorney on this property. The original hearing was not attended to by the person it was supposed to which was voluntarily assigned to Alan Murray. Council now has to restart the process with the lawyer.

Alan asks about the camper on this property and it being an abandoned vehicle.

Alan asks about the covered bridge with the bike trail that is being worked on. He is concerned about the siding on it. Phil states it is now a flat bridge.

Alan asks where the flag is, the cord is broken and Rob does not have the means to get up to fix the rope. Alex offers to help to fix it. Council says they will be in touch about his.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the May 2024 Claims, James Seconds. Janice votes yes. James votes yes
Carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer