

Town of Pines Meeting

March 1, 2023

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, April 5, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Shelby presents 2 sets of Minutes. The first Minute is from the End of Year Meeting for December 30, 2022. Janice votes to accept the minutes, James also votes to accept the minutes. Carried 2-0.

The second set of Minutes is for February 1, 2023. There are no corrections. Janice makes a motion to accept minutes from February 1, 2023. James seconds. Janice votes yes. James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby is still waiting for the fridge to come in. It is supposed to be here Friday March 3, 2023. This has been rescheduled. Shelby will let Rob know about this delivery.

Shelby has not heard back from Chris with the Water Department yet. He was working to find final quotes for this project. She is going to reach out as he stated they will have a meeting for their board and she expects to hear after that.

The Annual Financial Report has been submitted and all Gateway 2022 documents.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department 25 calls.

Mike has been working on what type of calls each is and working with a new system to see how it works for them.

Having an average of 6 guys per call so far this year.

Michael got a grant for more equipment.

They are under contract until June to stay on 520 at this point in time.

STREET DEPARTMENT

It's been quiet for street department this month. Rob has been preparing equipment for spring as much as he can while the weather is still cold.

James asks about the trees being trimmed and NIPSCO. Rob stated that so far they are not leaving debris.

Jan mentions that the CCMG work we will be having this year will have to be subject to public bid, it must be before our next meeting so Matt will get back to Jan about when this meeting will be best to hold. Shelby will share the date and time when we know more information.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phil has looked into the NIPSCO properties. They do contain Asbestos. This would cost \$15k to \$30k to only remove the asbestos and nothing more. NIPSCO wants a survey done in 20 days from the date that they listed. The attorney is checking into this new offer. Phil will let council know the information he finds out. Janice states that this sounds like a large cost to the Town. Shelby reminds council that they have other projects that have to be completed by the years end as well to consider financially.

2702 ½ West Dunes Highway has an issue with trash piling up. They state that they need bins. Shelby has not been informed or contacted for this yet. The only information Phil can find on the property owner is that it is in Damien Struyfs name still. Damien died. Shelby suggests Phil contact another Struyf member. Angela, Justin, or Monte to see if they have any information on the property.

Phil will have a meeting for the Flood Plain, this is a ZOOM meeting with Phil and the Board. This is not a public meeting.

Phil has met with a man who is turning shipping containers into homes. They have expressed interest in moving a home into the area. They would like to attend a meeting to share their information with council and to meet our town members.

OLD BUSINESS

James has been notified by the Cell Tower on Birch. American Tower has asked Council to review multiple options regarding their tower. James reads the offer as stands. After discussion of options offered, Council decides that at this time, they do not wish to make any new agreements at this time for the Cell Tower.

Janice brings up funds for Opioid Crisis. A lot of the things they are requesting for is not pertaining to the Town of Pines. She suggests if we can use this for supplies for firefighters possibly. She is going to investigate this further for more information.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1709 Birch Street Kent Verhage. He asked about the building on 20 that Shawn owns now. Phil states it is now being rented by a Tow Company. The Verhages also express concerns with people who have been parking and lingering at Pines Park and what activity they are up to.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the February 2023 Claims, James Seconds. Janice votes yes. James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer