

Town of Pines Meeting

July 7, 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, August 4, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. This will be a regular 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.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes from the June 2, 2021 meeting were reviewed with one correction to the date listed of the next meeting. Original minutes stated June 2, 2021 by mistake, minutes were adjusted to correct date of July 7, 2021 for the next meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Janice, seconded by Vicki. Janice voted to accept, Vicki voted to accept, James voted to accept. Carried 3-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby requests a meeting for Budget for 2022. July 27 at 1:45 PM the Clerk Treasurer's office has a meeting scheduled with Kurt Ott Regarding the 2022 Budget. Council needs to meet for a Pre-Budget Workshop before then. Shelby suggests a meeting for Friday July 23, 2021. Council agrees to schedule the meeting for July 23, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

A retired police officer from Hobart has contacted the Town asking about if the Town of Pines as a police force, or a reserve. He would like to know if he can assist in forming one if the Town is interested, as well as having some other questions answered. James states that he will reach out to the gentleman and find out further information and if it is something the Town can or cannot do.

Shelby has given everyone a copy of the American Rescue Plan overview to Council for review. She briefly reviews the packet with council, and suggest for Council to consider using these funds to help better the water system in the Town of Pines for the remaining residents that still have well water. This would give all residents in the Town of Pines City water. James asks for everyone to consider any other things that we can use these funds for, Council will hear any suggests and see if it is something that can be done with the funds being offered by the American Rescue Plan. James also asks to find out what it would take to get water to the remaining houses to find if it is a feasible option.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 23 Calls. They responded to a large fallen tree on Pine Street, and have one new member.

They have received a \$2500 grant from Marathon Gas for stabilizer jacks to be used at accident scenes for stabilizing cars.

STREET DEPARTMENT

There were multiple trees down and cleaned up. Rob has been working to Mow all of the Town properties. He has been cleaning up brush as needed as well due to storms.

Al & Sally's asked if we could do a brush pick up for them. They were advised that we can pick up small brush but large-scale brush piles are out of our ability for pickup and they would be responsible for having it disposed of.

James also mentions the ongoing issues with Railroad Ave and mail services.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phil asks about the outstanding \$5000 bill from the cleanup of the Skreby Property. James advises that Phil reaches out to the new owners, Skreby's daughter regarding the outstanding bill.

There was a building permit from SMJ for Tower work on Birch Street consisting of antenna work.

OLD BUSINESS

Vicki presents new equipment for the Pines Park. She has found metal basketball nets, and chain to prevent them from being stolen. She requests for the Clerk Treasurer to order these for the Town. Shelby agrees and she will get this order placed.

Vicki explains the different estimates that she has received regarding the Slide for Pines Park. She is currently looking into which option will be the best price. One quote offers installation, the others require installation. For those the Town may need to outsource the installation. Vicki will continue to investigate which option will best suit the Town of Pines Pine's Park. She shared all pricing options with Council. Council decides to allow Vicki to chose which of these options will be best for the Pines Park. Janice makes a motion, James seconds it. Motion carried 3-0.

James has spoken to the lawyer regarding the new Cell Tower Offer by MD7, the spokesperson for AmeriTower, the Cell tower on Delaware. They offered us a buy out before, and the Town Declined. Now they are offering the Town \$5000 to put a statement in the contract, giving them the right to first refusal. After reviewing, the Council has decided that at this time they do not want to change the contract.

James states that the Town needs to be in contact with South Shore regarding the Double Track. No one has been able to reach any of the original points of contact any longer.

Janice brings back to the table to discussion of redoing the Code and Ordinance book for the Town of Pines. The book needs to be reviewed, updated and approved by Council, retyped, and put into a PDF file. Shelby has seen other discussion from other Municipalities on how they have updated their books. She offers to reach out to the Towns as a part of the Municipality mailing list, to see what others have used to update their books and if any companies can be advised.

NEW BUSINESS

No new Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Loukia Verhage wants to commend the BZA for keeping the Town in the form that it has been and is still currently. She discusses how properties in Michigan City and surrounding areas have been changing from what they once were, and the excitement of the Town of Pines being on the edge of the 61st National Park of 63. This as well as the new owners revamping Al & Sally's this is bringing a lot of chances for new opportunities and business in the Town, as tourism and traffic increase due to the National Park drawing more people. She hopes to keep seeing the Town to grow and improve and to expand in things that can help and better the community. She also discusses the ongoing issues with the Pines Park security and suggests reaching out to the Cell Tower owner at this location about their access to electric for uses of cameras at the park. This was previously discussed at meetings about how would be feasible to install cameras and better security at the Pines Park.

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 7:25 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer