

Town of Pines Meeting

September 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, October 6, 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, Philip Orlando, and Shelby Mashburn. Vicki Kuzio was absent.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the August 4, 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.

The Minutes from Special Meeting for CCMG on August 25, 2021, were reviewed. A motion 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 begins with Budget 2022 discussion. The 2022 Budget Public Hearing needs to be held over, as the first one there were paperwork issues and it is not a valid meeting. The Correct 2022 Budget Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM. That moves the 2022 Adoption hearing to Friday October 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

Shelby has reached out to Rowley regarding the issues that were found with 2016 Payroll Taxes. The advice from Rowley was to not correct the issue due to it being over 5 years old and the amount being so small (\$500). Since the Town has been audited as well Rowley advises to leave everything as is. It also does not require anything to be done for the persons effected on their taxes. Janice makes a motion to accept the advice of Rowley, James seconds this motion. Janice voted too accept, James voted to accept. Carried 2-0.

Shelby is still looking for more information of the application process and requirements for projects with the American Rescue Plan offers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 30 calls this month. Right now they are 2 calls shy of 200 for the year so far.

1572

They have a grant from NIPSCO for gas meters for bags when going into homes. This will allow them to detect the presence of harmful gases better.

They have another grant they are working on for \$8000 Grant for new 900 feet of 5 Inch Fire Hosing. As well as new smaller hoses for smaller parts they have.

James asks about where the power was arching and why. Rob explains it was due to a tree leaning on a powerline and the issue is addressed.

Phil asks if Rob knows anything about the property NIPSCO has on Florida and Idaho. Rob says that there is Asbestos in one of the houses. They also stated when approached by the fire department that they would not want to just give it up due to location and claimed property value. They state that its to be a long process and project due to issues such as the asbestos and other found issues with the property. A remediation is required for the asbestos. Council would like to see what has to be done to have the properties condemned due to the growing property issues and complaints.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Rob and Kent have gotten both parks cleaned up and mowed for the Holiday Weekend.

Rob has been working with Vicki and Willy Goat about the Slide. He can get the needed water and electricity to the Pines Park for installation. Janice is going to lend them her trailer.

James asks about the bee issue at Pines Park. Rob couldn't find them when he went back to investigate. He did treat suspected bee holes he found. He asked Jan to go and show him where she got stung. They are ground bees or wasps. They are not pollenating bees or honeybees.

Rob states the Case tractor needs looked at as he suspects it needs a new alternator. He cannot use any driving lights or anything without the battery being drained right away.

BUILDING AND ZONING

JB WEST is reroofing 1600 Columbia Ave.

Municode is requesting a meeting via ZOOM for information of what they offer with Council on September 8th, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Phil will send the Invite.

James brings up the property on Second Place where people dumped things outside that will not be removed by Republic. Council is trying to reach them about cleaning up the property.

Council has reached out to Burton regarding his property across highway 12. He is renting this and the renters have been addressed about moving their equipment back to the property, and about parking on town property. They are checking that everything is compliant and up to code.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business last month, and very little old business. As stated by James. He goes on to explain that the September 8th Meeting is to discuss what is able to be done with the code book and updating this.

NEW BUSINESS

James brings up that there is new business from a gentleman who lives on Railroad Ave. He explains that council has spoken to Matt, and is going to be reaching out to the county to have Railroad Ave graded again before Winter and to then try to have it chip and sealed. Then in the future to look at paving from Highway 20 to the area discussed. County must be involved because the yard washout for Browns is washing out the road being discussed. It is also being discussed to fix Coverts at 520 and at Ardendale as well as they are not the correct width for safe passage of 2 cars. This is planned to be worked into our CCMG for 2022.

James goes on to explain that for this year's streets it was planned to seal cracks as well as repave 2 roads. The crack seal bid was much more expensive than normal as all the crack and seal companies are booked. Reith Riley gave the Town a bid as a curtesy, but it was too expensive. Crack and sealing will not be done. The repaving is still going to happen for 2 roads. The pricing for this is still higher than normal and will cost an approximate \$10,000 more than normal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathi Murray from 1621 Colorado states that at Colorado and 2nd place there is a rectangular patch of road that needs replaced. She states she has requested this to be patched last month and requests it again. Cathi also brings up the topic of ATVs and Golf Carts. She asks about if it is legal and what the Town's liability is to people who could get in potential accidents on these vehicles. James states that regarding the ATV especially since it is a child, he will reach out to the attorney to see how if they can address the grandfather.

Cathi makes another complaint about Alex on 2nd place. She states he's constantly burning. She also asks how many accessory buildings he's allowed to build before his primary residence. Phil states this is his first accessory structure he has built. She asks when/if his house must be done if he's allowed to keep building other structures. Phil states he has also gone and does not see any garden. He also does not see any red substance that has been poured out. She asks about the camper, and Phil states that he looked, and it is being used as storage for supplies and things as far as he can see.

Cathi states again about the fires. Rob states they have been out many times. Tammy mentions that if there is no 911 call there is no record. Rob states last time that happened they did contact Porter County Sheriffs and they when out and told Alex it was fine. Rob said the EPA would send a letter, but it can take some time between letters.

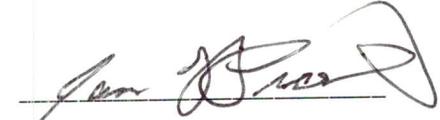
Cathi asks about the Code Book. She asks about putting a committee together for this. We are not to this point yet, but once we are there it will be offered for meetings with community members to join in.

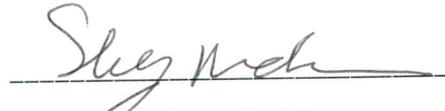
Kent asks about their neighbor on Pine Street. There is an RV that has been parked for a month. It has no generator, no plates, or anything else. It is at the Sisco Property. Phil said the town can check since its not plated. If it is being stored though, with no occupants will depend on the situation. Regardless, it needs to be plated. Loukia thanks everyone for the work going into Pines Park as well.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims, James seconds the motion. Janice votes yes, James votes yes.
Carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M


James Prast, President


Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer