

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
October 9, 2006

Members Present: Mike Menden, Herb Broschofsky, Mary Gritzmacher, Daniel Sauer, Kathy Kahlhamer and Maureen Watercott

A public hearing was called to order by Mayor Mike Menden at 7:00 pm at Pierz City Hall in regards to conduit financing that has been requested by Horizon Health. Barb Rebeschke was present on behalf of Horizon Health and the hearing was opened up to any members of the public who wished to speak on the matter. Lorae Vardas, an employee of Horizon Health, spoke in favor of the conduit financing. Barb then stated the importance of this financing and how vital it is to the project. After no additional comments from the public were made, the hearing closed and official action on the matter will take place at the October 23rd regular meeting.

The recessed city council meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike Menden at 7:10 p.m. at Pierz City Hall.

Motion by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Kahlhamer to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2006 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning & Zoning:

-Approve Building Permit, Doug Kloss

Upon receiving a positive recommendation from the Planning and Zoning committee, a motion was made by Mayor Menden and seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to approve the permit for a new dwelling at 401 Ronald Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

-Call for Public Hearing, Preliminary and Final Plat, Horizon Health

Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to call for a public hearing to take place on October 23rd at 7:00pm inside City Hall for the purpose of considering a preliminary and final plat for the Horizon Addition to Pierz. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

-Adopt Policy Amendments, City of Pierz Drug and Alcohol Use Policy

A motion was made by Mayor Menden and seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to adopt the drug and alcohol use policy as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

-2006 General Election Polling Areas, Pierz City and Pierz Township

Councilmember Kahlhamer explained that the City and township will be combining polling areas in order to provide more space and a bigger area for city voters.

-IRP Lending Program Meeting Discussion

Mayor Menden and Mike DeRosia, City Administrator, described the program and explained that in order for the City to participate in this low-interest loan program for prospective businesses, the County would need an official letter of interest in this program. Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Kahlhamer to approve the drafting of a letter of interest. Motion carried.

-Golf Course season-end figures, 2005 and 2006

As of October 1, 2006 the Pierz golf course has brought in \$28,974.24 in membership fees, \$86,067.38 in greens fees, and \$6,061 in storage fees.

-CMHP Housing Rehab. Program Update

It was decided that this program could wait one year while City officials prioritize and place projects of higher importance in front of this one. This program will resume its preliminary stages in mid-2007.

-Budget Discussion

Councilmember Sauer prepared a sheet for the audience and for the Council that shows Pierz’s annual budget increases compared to other cities that have a population similar to Pierz’s. It was concluded that Pierz is below average in terms of budget increases on an annual basis.

Separate Business from the Public:

-Jill Poepping, a resident Of Pierz, was in attendance and wanted to express her opinion that City Council meetings should be televised so that those who are unable to attend the meetings in person can watch them on TV.

Department Reports:

Parks: Daniel Baert was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

-It would cost the City \$1,650 per golf cart to buy out the current golf cart lease that the City has entered with Textron Financial. This topic has been examined for weeks by Daniel and the Park Board. A Motion was made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to buy the golf carts outright at a price of \$1,650 per cart. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works: Bob Otremba was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

- Bob presented the annual snowplow agreement between Morrison county and Pierz. This agreement allows for Morrison county to take over plowing in the City if, for some reason, the City of Pierz were unable to plow their own streets. The agreement was signed by the Mayor following Bob’s introduction.

Police: Steve Boser was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

-Steve handed out the monthly police report, which discloses police calls and emergency calls made throughout the month in Pierz.

Administration: Mike DeRosia was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

-Mike reminded the City Council of the MN/DOT meeting that will be held Thursday, October 12th inside City hall. This will be an open meeting, as Mike expects the majority of the Council to be present. Mike also informed the Council of an upcoming energy conservation event for all low-income electric customers in Pierz. This event is a dinner function that will be held in Little Falls and is hosted by MN Power. The City would be obligated to pay \$15.00 for each electric customer that attends the event. No action was taken or decided upon by the Council.

Treasurer’s Report:

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| September 30 th Checkbook Balance | \$549,502.68 |
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Motion by Mayor Menden, second by Councilmember Kahlhamer to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims: The claims for the month were reviewed by the Council and total \$300,451.08. Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to pay claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

Kathy Kahlhamer read a statement expressing her duties as a Councilmember, and her inability as a Councilmember to discuss topics that might seem open to the public which are actually confidential.

Motion by Mayor Menden, second by Councilmember Gritzmacher to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Mike Menden, Mayor, City of Pierz

Kathy Kahlhamer, Clerk, City of Pierz