

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
December 11, 2006

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

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike Menden at 7:03 p.m. at Pierz City Hall.

Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2006 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to approve the Agenda with the addition of City Engineer Jim Schulz's update. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations:

-Tori Hugo, S.E.H. Consulting

Tori was present to discuss Pierz's potential for a new library/city hall building. She submitted an estimate of \$4,500.00 for schematic drawings of this building which would be 5,000-6,000 sq. ft. The City Administrator explained that a grant is being applied for from Initiative Foundation to fund up to half of the cost for schematic drawings. A motion was made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Kahlhamer to direct S.E.H. to go forth with preparing schematic drawings at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00 Discussion: Councilmember Kahlhamer asked how long these drawings would take to complete, and Tori explained that it would be the end of February at the absolute latest.

-Bob Bzdock, Sled Dog Races

Bob wanted to go in front of the City Council to notify everyone that if there is enough snow in Pierz this winter, he'd like to do a sled dog race. Bob would like to use the City's park for the race. A motion was made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to allow the sled dog race to be based out of the Pierz Park on February 17-18. Motion carried unanimously.

-Jim Schulz

Jim discussed the final change order for the storm sewer project. This change order substitutes Class-5 for topsoil, seed, and erosion control blanket near Brandl Motors. The final change order totals \$11,088.00 and will be submitted for approval at the January Council meeting.

Regular Business:

-Recognition of Outstanding Service, Mayor, City Council Members

The City Administrator presented plaques to outgoing elected officials Daniel "Tony" Sauer, Mike Menden, and Mary Gritzmacher rewarding them for their service to Pierz. Certificates of Election to Steph Fyten, Toby Egan, and Roland Hartmann were given out shortly thereafter.

-Highway 25/Main Street project update

City Administrator Mike DeRosia explained to the Council that MN/DOT, after several dismal meetings that gave Pierz the impression that the project was pushed back to 2011, has decided to keep the project in the forefront for 2008. Mike scheduled a meeting for January 5th so that MN/DOT and Pierz officials could become acquainted informally. Senator Paul Koering, County Community

Development Director Carol Anderson, and RPSWD representative Charles Storkamp will sit among the City Council and MN/DOT officials that day at the Old Bank Restaurant. No action taken.

-Introduction of Gov TV proposal

City Administrator Mike DeRosia presented Gov TV as a way to televise and archive City Council meetings. Council members were given a brochure on the Gov TV program, but were not provided with any cost estimates. Mike DeRosia will look into cost figures for Gov TV. No action taken.

-Resolution 121106, Set Levy Amount

Councilmember Kahlhamer introduced this resolution, which called for a levy of \$280,515 for 2007. A motion was made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

-Resolution 121106-01, Set Annual Budget

Councilmember Kahlhamer introduced this resolution, which approves the 2007 operating budget for the City of Pierz. A motion was made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to adopt this resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

-Annual City Employee Driver's License Checks

Councilmember Kahlhamer summarized a letter that she received from Schomer Insurance regarding motor vehicle record checks and further reminding the city to conduct them annually. The City has not done annual MVR checks for 2006 as of yet. No action taken.

Department Reports:

Community Development: Jessica Fischer was present to discuss the following issues with the Council.

-Jessica has been searching diligently for any records of Billig Park being commissioned as an actual park during a city council meeting by resolution, council action, or otherwise. So far, Jessica has searched Council minutes and resolutions of the 70's and 80's and has found nothing. The reason for her search is because of the City Council's desire to determine whether it's possible to put permanent buildings on Billig Park or not. City Administrator Mike DeRosia directed City Attorney Peter Vogel to do a title search on the property for deed restrictions on the Billig Park lot, known as lot 6, Original Plat of Pierz. No restrictions were found on the title, and Jessica has not found any records indicating that the Council officially dedicated that land as a park by a majority vote at any time; this means that it is highly likely that there would be no issue putting permanent buildings on the Billig Park lot.

Parks: Daniel Baert was present, and did not have any current issues to discuss with the Council.

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

-Bob has flooded the ice rinks in town. For a few weeks they were used often, but the current warmer than usual weather has caused the rinks to become slush. Also, Bob commented that Crow Wing Power will be doing tree trimming throughout the city for the next month or so.

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

-An abandoned trailer on Mike Mullin's property is severely damaged and needs to either be repaired or demolished. A local junk hauler is willing to demolish the trailer and haul it away for \$700.00, so long as the City provides the dumpster. Steve was then asked by the Council to work with the City Attorney so that the owner is given proper notice of this action.

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

-City Intern Jessica Fischer will be graduating college at the end of this week. Mike has expressed that it is a definite help to have Jessica in the office because it relieves him of website, newsletter, and grant writing duties that he would never have time for. According to the Public Employees Retirement Association, Jessica would not be eligible for a pension unless she makes more than \$425.00 in a calendar month. Keeping this in mind, Mike would like to continue to have Jessica in the office for not more than 10 hours/week. A motion was made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to continue Jessica's employment at her current rate but earnings must not exceed \$425.00/month. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

November 30 th Bank Balance:	\$398,342.48

Motion made by Mayor Menden, second by Councilmember Sauer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

-Treasurer Maureen Watercott also asked permission to transfer the following amounts from the City's checking account to the "dedicated funds" accounts:

- Squad Car-\$6,000
- Police Equipment-\$2,000
- Public Works Tractor-\$1,250
- Public Works Street Sweeper-\$6,000
- Public Works Snow Plow-\$3,000
- Fire Truck-\$10,000
- Fire Hydrants-\$1,000
- Public Works Bucket Truck-\$4,000

.....The following funds were drawn from by the Treasurer for the above transfers:

- \$17,000 from electric fund
- \$7,000 from revenue fund
- \$10,000 from fire fund

Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to transfer this money from the City's checking account to the City's dedicated funds. Motion carried unanimously.

-.....AND the following transfer was requested by the Treasurer also:

- \$35,000 from golf cart fund to golf course fund

Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to transfer \$35,000 from Golf Carts to Golf Course. Motion carried unanimously.

-Treasurer Maureen Watercott also asked to invest \$100,000 in cash dividend at Unity Bank in Genola at 5.6%. Farmer's and Merchant's State Bank was given the opportunity to match the rate, but declined to. A motion was made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to invest that amount at Unity Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims: The claims for the month were reviewed by the Council and total \$86,622.98, not including the late addition of Dan Girtz's inspection fees for the month, which total \$2,160.00 Motion made by

Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to pay claims, with the one addition as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Mike Menden, Mayor, City of Pierz

Kathy Kahlhamer, Clerk, City of Pierz