

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
April 25 2011

Members present: Toby Egan, Adrian Welle, Stephanie Fyten, Michael Menden, Mary Korf, and Maureen Watercott.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Pierz City Hall by Mayor Toby Egan.

Motion made by Council Member Steph Fyten and seconded by Council Member Mike Menden to accept the minutes from the April 11 2011 Regular Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Mike Menden and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to accept the minutes from the April 11 2011 EDA Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Stephanie Fyten and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to approve the agenda with the additions of the Certified Letter Fees and Sister City Update. Motion carried unanimously.

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Toby Egan to discuss the Power Purchase Adjustment rates for the Electric Department.

Mayor Toby Egan further explained that with the cost of the True-Up that MN Power will now be charging the City, the City is needing to also have something similar to a true-up charge to residents of Pierz. The Power Purchase Adjustment rate will be equal to a ½ cent per kWh and will be a variable rate. This rate can change annually, once the Council has been able to determine what the expected true-up rate will be from MN Power.

There was public comment in regards to the demand rates and whether residential customers should try to save energy when their rates keep going up. The Council agreed that it will look in to demand rates and high users on the system so that rates are more fair and equitable to all users.

After no further public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m. and the regular city council meeting was reopened.

Motion made by Council Member Mike Menden and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to approve the Chapter 3 Part 4 Utility Management Rate Ordinance Amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Steph Fyten and seconded by Council Member Adrian Welle to approve a ½ cent per kWh Power Purchase Adjustment Rate for the remainder year 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

There was an update given that after electric shut offs and using the new electric policy that does not allow for payment plans, the City was able to collect all but 2 accounts and the overall number of outstanding delinquent accounts decreased dramatically.

Leroy Kahlhamer was present to discuss the issue of the sidewalk on his property. Currently, according to a recent survey, ½ the sidewalk is City owned and ½ the sidewalk is on his property. He expressed that he simply wants to now own his portion of the sidewalk due to not wanting to be liable and also wanting clearly stated property lines. The City agreed to purchase that portion of the sidewalk from him and to have the City Attorney draft a Deed for that portion of the sidewalk. Leroy agreed that that was a sufficient solution to his issue.

Motion made by Council Member Mike Menden and seconded by Council member Steph Fyten to approve a WECC Participation Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Steph Fyten and seconded by Council Member Adrian Welle to table the Employee AWAIR Policy and Employee Bloode Borne Pathogen Policy until the fire department can review it. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Anna Gruber gave an update on the personnel policies and asked the Council to review them before approving. The Council asked City Administrator Anna Gruber to look into whether they could give the City Administrator directives in certain aspects of employee relations so that the employees will have one person to work with instead of having to go to the full council. Gruber said she would contact the league and our attorney to look in to it.

Motion made by City Clerk Mary Korf and seconded by Council member Adrian Welle to approve a \$500 donation to the Oktoberfest fireworks. Motion carried unanimously.

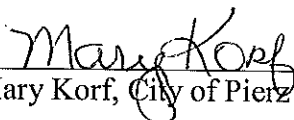
Motion made by Council Member Mike Menden and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to approve a building permit for a deck at 306 Cassie Street. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Anna Gruber gave an update on the Sister City partnership in that she was contacted by an American who lives in Kyllburg who was willing to help with organizing the partnership and would also like to Skype with our committee. Gruber said she would organize a date for the skype live meeting.

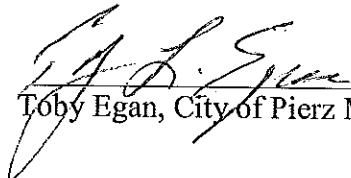
Motion was made by Council Member Steph Fyten and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to approve changing the certified letter fees to \$6.00 with the change in the fees at the post office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Mike Menden and seconded by City Clerk Mary Korf to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Mary Korf, City of Pierz City Clerk



Toby Egan, City of Pierz Mayor