

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
May 30, 2007

Members Present: Toby Egan, Herb Broschofsky, Stephanie Fyten, Kathy Kahlhamer and Maureen Watercott.

Members Absent: Rollie Hartmann

The public hearing for the proposed improvements to Park Avenue was called to order by Mayor Toby Egan at 6:00 p.m. at Pierz City Hall.

-City Engineer Jim Schulz explained the project to the Council, property owners, and other attendees of the hearing during his presentation. After Jim's presentation was complete, Mayor Egan closed that portion of the hearing by requesting feedback from attendees, whether comments are positive or negative.

-Questions were asked by Bernadette Stangl and Greg Fuhrman prior to comments being heard.

-Bernadette Stangl spoke in opposition of being assessed for project costs.

-Mike and Colleen Lucking spoke in opposition of being assessed for road improvements.

-Lynn Egan spoke in opposition of being assessed for project costs.

-Council member Broschofsky noted that an assessment hearing would take place after the project is complete, and this hearing is concerning whether the project is in the interest of the public or not. After hearing feedback from property owners, Mayor Egan made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk and upon no further discussion the hearing was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Members Present: Toby Egan, Herb Broschofsky, Kathy Kahlhamer, Maureen Watercott.

Members Absent: Rollie Hartmann, Stephanie Fyten

The recessed City Council meeting previously scheduled for May 28th was called to order by Mayor Toby Egan at 7:00pm at Pierz City Hall.

Motion made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to approve tonight's Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Items of Business:

-Local Access Television Discussion

Jerry Abraham, President of Public Access Video, was present along with Ted Pfohl of the United Way Foundation to speak with the Council. Efforts are being made by Ted, Jerry, County Administrator Houle, and Mike DeRosia to continue on with televising events in Pierz, and to add Council meetings to the access channel as well. A camera operator will need to be hired and compensated. This person needs little to no experience and can be trained. The school district will also need to be willing to share its camera equipment with the City if meetings were to be televised. The Council directed Mike DeRosia to continue working toward getting grant money for the purpose of compensating a camera operator. No action taken.

-Park Avenue Improvement Project

A public hearing was held prior to this recessed Council meeting for the purpose of receiving public input on the project. Upon the hearing being held, the Council has followed the 429 process as outlined in state statutes and is now prepared to consider the project. Mayor Egan stated he feels the City has no choice but to authorize improvements up to the Easternmost Border of Vincent Street due to the signing of a developer's agreement for Pondview Estates. Upon no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to approve the Park Avenue Improvements from Vincent Street to Karst Street including road, curb and gutter, and sidewalk, and to further table the improvements from Vincent eastward toward Cassie Street until the June 11th meeting. Voting Yes: Egan, Broschofsky, Kahlhamer. Voting no: none. Absent: Hartmann, Fyten. Motion carried.

-Highway 25/Main Street Reconstruction Bonding Bill

Mike DeRosia informed the Council that Representative Doty drafted a bonding bill for \$1,000,000.00 in assistance for the purpose of funding the Main Street reconstruction of 2009. The bill needs to have language changed, and Mike will report back to the Council with any updates.

-Fuel Adjustment Cost Analysis

Mike DeRosia presented a brief analysis of electricity costs to the City. Minnesota Power sells electricity to the City at a wholesale rate, and adds an additional charge called 'fuel adjustment' to each bill at a per kilowatt rate. The City has never passed the rates along to its residents, but the analysis showed that changes must be made. A motion was made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to charge any monthly fuel adjustment rate over one cent per kilowatt back to Pierz customers. Voting yes: Brochofsky, Egan, Kahlhamer. Voting no: none. Absent: Fyten, Hartmann.

-Peter Avenue Lot Proposal Submittals

Mike DeRosia reported that the City received one proposal for purchasing the vacant lot located on Peter Avenue and Faust Street. The deadline to submit proposals was Friday, May 25th at 4:00 pm. A motion was made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to table any consideration until the next meeting when the full Council will be available for opinion. Voting yes: Egan, Broschofsky, Kahlhamer. Voting no: none. Absent: Hartmann, Fyten. Motion carried.

-General City Policy 02, "Sidewalks"

Mike DeRosia introduced a sidewalk maintenance policy for the Council's consideration. One change in regards to replacement specifications was desired, which could be changed and amended for approval on the June 11th meeting. Motion made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to table until the June 11th meeting. Voting yes; Egan, Broschofsky, Kahlhamer. Voting no: none. Absent: Hartmann, Fyten. Motion carried.

-Accept Donation, Schomer Insurance

A motion was made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to accept the \$200.00 donation from Schomer Insurance for the purchase of American flags on display over city roads this summer. Voting yes: Egan, Broschofsky, Kahlhamer, Fyten. Voting no: none. Absent: Hartmann. Motion carried.

-Consider Permit, Garage Addition, Jerry Bottema

Because the Zoning board did not convene, the Council wanted to table the issue. A motion was made by Mayor Egan, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to table until June 11th. Voting yes: Egan, Broschofsky, Kahlhamer, Fyten. Voting No: none. Absent: Hartmann. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

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

-Upsala recommended that elderly citizens of Pierz use Mor-Trans as transportation if they need to rather than asking the City to spend money on purchasing a bus, hiring a driver, or paying fuel costs. The Council then directed Mike to get info on Mor-Trans.

Motion made by Councilmember Broschovsky, seconded by Kathy Kahlhamer, City Clerk to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Toby Egan, Mayor, City of Pierz

Kathy Kahlhamer, Clerk, City of Pierz