

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of a Public Variance Hearing and a meeting of the Pierz City Council
May 22, 2006

Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee present to administer the variance hearing: Arvin Litke, Mike Wilson, Marvin Stangl, Jim Gruber, Don Bujalski.

The public hearing for the consideration of a variance request from Paul and Pam Demorett was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mike Wilson started by reciting a passage from the zoning ordinance regarding variances.

It was determined, after reviewing the request and the ordinance, that in order for a variance to be granted there must be undue hardship placed on the property. In this case, the planning and zoning committee decided hardship was placed on the property-owner and not the property itself. As such, the decision was made to recommend to the city council the denial of the variance request. Motion made by Marvin Stangl, seconded by Jim Gruber to recommend denial to the city council. Motion carried. WITH THE DECISION BEING MADE, THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS OFFICIALY CLOSED AT 7:07 PM.

The meeting of the Pierz City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Menden at 7:10 p.m. at Pierz City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Menden, Councilmember Broschofsky, Councilmember Gritzmacher, Councilmember Sauer, Councilmember Kahlhamer, and Councilmember Maureen Watercott.

Motion by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Gritzmacher to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2006 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Planning & Zoning:

1. Update, 2006 Storm Sewer Improvement Project.

Jim Schultz was present to discuss the reference checks that he conducted on the lowest bidder of the project, Tom's Backhoe Service. Most all reference checks produced satisfactory results for the City and City Engineer Jim Schultz regarding the reputation of Tom's Backhoe Service. Jim emphasized that the City will not be awarding the bid to anyone until a public hearing is held regarding costs to the taxpayers, and an ordinance and policy are put in place.

2. Update, Pondview Estates

Jim Schultz, Project Engineer for Kloss Enterprises, LLC. stated that the Pondview Estates development does not anticipate any further wetland issues that might hinder the development.

3. Variance Request, Paul and Pam Demorett

A public hearing was held on behalf of Paul and Pam Demorett prior to this City Council meeting. At that hearing, the Planning and Zoning Committee made a recommendation to City Council to deny the variance request based upon the actual undue hardship being placed on the person, not the property. Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by councilmember Sauer to deny the request for variance based upon the recommendation of the planning and zoning board. Motion carried.

Other Business:

1. Resolution 052206, Guidelines, Police Chief

Police Chief Steve Boser was present to discuss the resolution with City Council. Upon minor changes being made, Chief Boser approved of the terms of this resolution. Motion made by Mayor Menden,

seconded by Councilmember Kahlhamer to adopt resolution 052206. Roll Call Vote: All Voted Yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

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

According to Daniel, the City may be eligible for substantial unleaded fuel discounts from the state for off-road machines such as golf carts, lawnmowers, etc. Daniel has filled out the proper forms and done the proper research, all he is waiting on is a response from the state.

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

Bob received two separate bids for road improvements on 2nd Avenue. The two bidders were Tri-City Paving and Bauerly Brothers Construction. The low bidder was Tri-City, coming in at a total cost of \$35,455. Motion made by Councilmember Broschofsky, seconded by Councilmember Sauer to award the project to Tri-City Paving. Motion carried.

Also, 5 new fire hydrants were purchased and are being installed at an amount in excess of \$11,000.

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

Morrison County Public Health is working with the Police Department in cleaning up the mobile home park owned by Mike Mullin. Steve has expressed his support of this project to the county and will continue to work with them and with Mike.

The City Council has also expressed their desire to find another full-time police officer. The council directed Chief Boser to begin advertising for the position of full-time officer immediately in order to receive a perception of what types of candidates will respond to the advertisement and to bring more law enforcement to Pierz.

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

CenturyTel phone service has been criticized recently by local businesses and members of the public for having high rates and having poor to non-existent customer service. Mike is looking at finding a different local phone service provider for Pierz to compete with CenturyTel.

Updates:

Public Hearing, Stormwater Utility Fee Discussion

-Motion made by Mayor Menden, seconded by Councilmember Broschofsky to call for a public hearing for June 13 at 7pm and further send out notices to all residents of Pierz. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mayor Menden, second by Councilmember Kahlhamer to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Mike Menden, Mayor, City of Pierz

Kathy Kahlhamer, Clerk, City of Pierz