

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
March 20, 2019

Members Present: Dave Fischer, Kyle Bednar, Don Bujalski, Lynn Egan and Linda Sczublewski.

Members Absent: Jacque Ballou.

Others Present: Jim Gerwing, Chris Young, Bob Otremba and Nicole Smude.

The City Council Work Session was called to order at 5:45 p.m. at Pierz City Hall by Mayor Dave Fischer.

APARTMENT BUILDING:

City Council Members discussed holding on to the apartment building and not selling. Chris Young, Fire Chief expressed with the City Council that there isn't an immediate need for space for the Fire Department, but there might be a need to expand in the future. Young explained he thought it was important to further explore the idea of keeping the land adjacent to the Fire Department. City Council Members further discussed utilizing Renters Warehouse or an organization like that to manage the apartment building. Nicole Smude, Administrator to look into different option of rental management companies.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Jim Gerwing, Planning and Zoning Chair was present to discuss possible changes to the Planning and Zoning ordinance. The changes included adding a section of Accessory Structures and updating the fencing ordinance. Smude to make changes to ordinance and to have Attorney review and then setup for public hearing prior to a council meeting.

NEW PROPERTY DISCUSSION:

Mayor Dave Fischer discussed with the Council what options the Park Board are exploring for the new property located adjacent to the golf course. Fischer explained they are looking into another 9 holes and what is would cost, camping or possibly a manufacturing industrial park. The Park Board is also looking into the gravel pit as a possible option for expanding the campground. Fischer explained there are many different options, it is just finding what is logical and makes the most sense for the future. The Park Board will keep working on the options to find what would be the best fit.

HILLMAN CREEK EROSION (HOLE #5):

Mayor Fischer informed the City Council that the Park and Rec staff applied for a grant to assist with the erosion on hole #5. Unfortunately, the project was turned down. The plan is to turn in another application next year. The approximate cost to fix the erosion is \$50,000 with an estimated construction date of fall of 2020.

RENTAL LICENSE FEES:

Administrator Smude brought forward the need to re-establish the rental licensing program. Smude discussed various fees with the City Council Members. Toby Egan, Building Official expressed to Smude that he was interested in doing rental inspections free of charge to build his portfolio. It was discussed to get information from Egan on what he would charge if he were to do the inspection. Smude to gather fees from other cities in the area.

GREEN STEPS INTERN:

Administrator Smude discussed with the City Council that she is working with Royalton and Little Falls to possibly use a green steps intern funded through Sourcewell. The intern would work solely on the green steps program. Pierz has been a green step city since 2014 and Royalton since 2010. In March of 2019, Little Falls City Council voted against becoming a green step city. Pierz solely does not have enough work for an intern and would need the other two cities to participate in the program to use the intern. As soon as Smude knows more she will update the Council.

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CELL PHONE POLICY:

Discussion was held regarding the current cell phone policy. It was discussed that the current policy needs to be updated. In the updates, it should verify who is allowed to receive the reimbursement (is it fulltime employees, all employees or at the discretion of the department heads) and how much the reimbursement should be. Smude to look into cell phone policy's and work on updating the current policy. A social media policy was discussed as well. Smude to look into creating a policy.

OKTOBERFEST DONATION REQUEST:

Smude informed the City Council that the Oktoberfest Committee is asking for \$1,500 this year instead of \$1,000. Smude explained the reasoning is because the event is mostly funded by organization donations and what the committee can sell for buttons, hats and various items. Smude to bring the donation request forward at the next meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Mayor Dave Fischer updated the City Council on the Finance Committee meeting. Fischer explained that the committee is looking into different investment options between Unity Bank and Farmers and Merchants. The Finance Committee will be meeting with Unity Bank in the near future, as well as Farmers and Merchants.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE:

Mayor Dave Fischer wanted to further discuss the Solid Waste contract with Pierz sanitation. Below are the current rates:

Pierz Sanitation charges City \$4.75 for garbage and \$3.00 for recycling. The City charges residents \$5.00 for garbage and \$3.10 for recycling. Pierz Sanitation proposed a \$0.50 increase to recycling charges. The Solid Waste Committee proposed a \$0.50 increase to residents for recycling (\$3.60). Fischer proposed a \$0.65 increase to residents. This would make the numbers work out in quarter increments and not in rates. Proposed charges to residents \$5.00 for garbage and \$3.75 for recycling. All City Council were in agreeance with the discussion. Discussion was also held regarding the contract between Pierz Sanitation and the City. Fischer brought up having something in the contract state a clause if Pierz Sanitation sells, the contract still needs to be honored. Smude to work with Attorney on contract wording and fees.


DISASTER RELIEF FUND:

Mayor Dave Fischer and Administrator Smude further explained what the disaster relief fund is and expressed with the Council that the donations will need to be in by June 2019 to meet the matching \$10,000 grant requirements. Smude to work with Police Chief Eric Hanneken on getting the word out.


No decisions were made in regards to any of the above discussions. Further discussion and approval will take place at future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Dave Fischer, Mayor



Kyle Bednar, City Clerk