CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
City Council Meeting
February 26th, 2024
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Perleberg, Council Member Jacque Johnson, City Clerk Sarah Fyten

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Laura Wacker, Chief Police Eric Hanneken, Golf Course Manager Toni Meyer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
A motion was made by the Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:
There were no additions to the agenda for the February 26th, 2024, City Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve the agenda with the addition. Motion carried unanimously.

RELIEF ASSOCIATION:
Article 9 is relief association guidelines that is the subdivision for firefighters' retirements with 20+ years of service. They can pull retirement when they reach the age of 50. In 2023 they were at $3,000 and this year being at 112% funded they want to raise it to $3,100. The city is agreeing to honor or cover the fire department if they disband the fire department completely then that is where the money would come from, but they over 100% funded till the end of 2024 if that were to happen.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to approve $3,100 for the Pierz fire department retirement fund and the city covering those funds if something were to happen to the Pierz fire department. Motion carried unanimously.

Between the city and the other half of the fire department they ask for $550 per 26 fire fighters. The city currently has 30 strong and certified fire fighters. The city will cover all 30 fire fighters.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to approve of $550 for 30 fire fighters for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Reminder that the Pierz fire department meets at the Pierz fire hall at 8 pm and the meetings are open to the public.

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FIRE CHIEF, DAN ROCHELEAU 2023 REPORT:
The Fire Department leadership remained the same. The response area is 580 square miles. In 2023 there were 69 calls and the total value lost was 2.6 million for the year. In the city of Pierz there were a total of 10 calls with only 1 false alarm. The new tanker pumper is now in service. The Fire Department also got new turnout gear which is supposed to be replaced every 10 years with NFPA standards. They received an $8,000 grant from the Minnesota State Fire Department Association for 2 sets of turn out gear, Pioneer Seed put in a grant of $5,000 for grain bin rescue, and a grant was received from the gas line West of town for $5,000 that was used towards new equipment air rescue bags. Last year someone parked to go to Frosty's backed into the Fire Hall and moved the AC, which is an expensive piece of equipment. The Fire Department is requesting five more designated parking spots in their lot. They want to make sure the spots are at least designated up to the Fire Department AC unit. We also want to remember the officers and firemen that lost their lives last weekend.

A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to claim five more parking spots for the Pierz Fire Department and Dan Rocheleau will work with Eric Gaffke on getting a design. Motion carried unanimously.

FREEDOM FEST DONATION REQUEST:
In 2023 the city made a $1,000 donation to the Pierz Freedom Fest. In 2024 they will make another $1,000 donation.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to approve of a $1,000 donation for the 2024 Pierz Freedom Fest. Motion carried unanimously.

OKTOBERFEST DONATION REQUEST:
This is the 40th Anniversary for the Oktoberfest, so there will be additions such as fireworks. They typically request $1,500, but this year they are requesting $2,000. The city has a budget of $10,000 a year for donation requests.

A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve of a $2,000 donation for the 2024 Pierz Oktoberfest. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION – SARAH FUNK:
Sarah Funk is the Community Ed Director to provide activities for youth and adults to bring the community together. During the summer the youth have been the focus. There has been an average of 1,000 students served from the activities. The donations are used to lower costs or pay full price for families who cannot afford it and to keep the fees low. Every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. the track is open for families to participate in track events for free. They are always looking for volunteers that can reach out to Sarah. On Sunday nights at 5 p.m. the high school PAC has pickleball for $2. They held a pickleball tournament with 4-divisions and 24 teams. The donation request is $3,025. The city will increase the donation to $3,100.

A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve of a $3,100 donation for the 2024 Community Education program. Motion carried unanimously.

CLEAN UP DATE:
A meeting is being set up to confirm dates and pricing for the citywide cleanup day. The tentative date is May 18th, 2024. The city does not run garage sale days, so they need volunteers to set up dates and run ads. There will be a Facebook post looking for people to head up the garage sale days.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to approve of a tentative date of May 18th, 2024, for a city-wide cleanup day. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY PHONES:
City Administrator, Laura Wacker, is in the process of finding pricing for phones and services for supervisors.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to table discussion about city phones until the next city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING 10-14 HOLIDAY MOVE TO 10-15:
A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve of moving the Pierz city council meeting from October 14th, 2024, to October 15th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF POLICE ERIC HANNEKEN:
Barb Tretter gave an annual application for a pre-party for Pierz Freedom Fest July 19th, 2024.

A motion was made by City Clerk Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve Barb Treters' application for a pre-party for Pierz Freedom Fest July 19th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

For the 2023 annual report there are four part-time police staff including Dan Rocheleau, Calvin Tschida, Josh Andrea, and Doug Rekstad. The city of Pierz investigated 978 complaints. There is an average of 2.67 calls per shift when an officer is working and the most common calls being accidents. All the police officers are first responders. There were 192 traffic stops.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT:
Laura will talk to a teacher about John coming in for major of the day for 4th and 5th graders. Paula Przybilla with the Pierz Commercial Club has a donation they can donate to the city, so there is talk about different options such as a pickleball court, a splashpad, or other smaller things for kids to do at multiple parks. To

clarify from the previous city council meeting Superintendent Zach will be hiring two new grounds crew members to replace people who have left and not adding additional positions.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to do background checks on all new full-time and part-time city employees. Motion carried unanimously.

Current full-time employees and seasonal rehire employees do not need a background check, but the city will require any new hirers to have a background check.

UPDATES:
Laura's first week went well, and she is appreciative of help from other city employees.

ADJOURNMENT:
A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and seconded by City Clerk Sarah Fyten to adjourn the city council meeting at 7:41 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

John Perreberg, Mayor

Sarah Fyten, City Clerk