

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
City Council Workshop
March 17, 2026
5:32 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Perleberg, Council Member Don Bujalski Council Member Lynn Egan, Council Member Gary Berg, City Clerk Sarah Fyten, City Treasurer Kaye Stangl

STAFF PRESENT: Laura Wacker, City Administrator, Eric Hanneken, Police Chief, Rick Wacker Public Works Director, Brad Dehler, Golf Course Lead and Andy Leidenfrost, Clubhouse Lead

POLICE:

Chief Hanneken starts with:

- Discussion held regarding use of a surplus squad car for city departments (public works/golf course).
- Estimated value of used squad car: approximately \$15,000.
- General consensus:
 - Concept supported to reduce use of personal vehicles.
 - Staff to determine fair internal transfer value and bring back to council for approval.

- The call load with the schools has dropped remaining manageable.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Wacker start with:

Equipment (Tractor Replacement):

- Public Works reported receiving quotes to trade in the existing tractor.
- The current tractor is not being used, and there is concern it will continue to lose value.
- Proposal includes trading it in for a compact tractor with mower and sweeper, which would:
 - Be used year-round
 - Provide greater versatility for operations
- Both quotes will be presented at the next council meeting for consideration and potential approval to proceed.

Salt Shed / Storage:

- Estimated cost for project: approximately \$18,658 (base option).
- Discussion included:
 - Future expansion for storage needs.
 - Operational efficiency and safety improvements.
- Noted that sufficient funds exist in the dedicated account.
- Next council meeting will request to get an engineered plan to get an efficient quote.

Equipment Sales/Update:

- Items identified for potential sale:
 - Snow pusher (not being used)
 - Ford pick up truck

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- Hoist/lift
- Trailer (safety concerns)
- Direction:
 - Staff to evaluate resale options and return to council meeting with recommendations.
- Working on updating the equipment list and replacement year.
 - Several items are already long passed their replacement year.
 - Will complete and share with council/budget committee.

Capital Equipment Planning:

Mayor Perleberg adds for all departments:

- Discussion on need for a 5-year (or longer) equipment plan across departments.
- Goal:
 - Improve budgeting and avoid unexpected large expenses.
- Departments asked to:
 - Develop and submit future equipment needs and timelines.

Apartment Building (City-Owned):

- Significant discussion regarding future of the building.
- Concerns:
 - High potential renovation costs
 - Ongoing maintenance obligations
 - Code/upgrade requirements if improvements are made
- Options discussed:
 - Continue minimal maintenance
 - Invest in upgrades
 - Explore alternative uses or disposal
- Direction:
 - Further evaluation of costs and options needed before decisions.
 - Review the contract or bill of sale with what we can or cannot do.

Open Items:

- Tree in park discussed (not a memorial tree).
 - Replace with a more maintainable tree.
 - Consider speaking with the auxiliary group.
- Staff to hang banners and flower boxes based on weather conditions.
- Review welders and bring to council.

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Safe Routes to School / Sidewalk Project:

- Discussion on potential sidewalk improvements near school.
- Key points:
 - Safety concerns for children and pedestrians.
 - Possibility of grant funding.
 - Coordination with future road/sewer projects.
- Direction:
 - Gather additional cost information.
 - Consider applying for available grants.

Development & Housing Discussion

Council member Bujalski shares:

- Inquiry from a resident interested in developing housing.
- Topic: City assistance with grant writing for infrastructure (water, sewer, roads).
- Key considerations:
 - Current policy places infrastructure costs on developers.
 - Grants may require city involvement.
 - Staff capacity and precedent concerns.
- Consensus:
 - More information needed.
 - No commitment made at this time.

SENIOR CENTER:

City Administrator Wacker shares:

- Current situation:
 - Equipment owned by outside organization but not actively used.
- Options discussed:
 - Require removal of unused equipment (e.g., 30-day notice)
 - Repurpose space for city use
 - Meet with organization to discuss future use
- Direction:
 - Schedule meeting with organization's board before taking action.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT:

- Project timeline:
 - Potential start: mid-May
- Updates:
 - Alternative design (border) option may reduce cost by \$10,000–\$20,000
 - Current funding shortfall: approximately \$60,450

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- Additional grants pending
- Discussion:
 - Use of city funds vs. scaling project
 - Possibility of using Small Cities Development Program funds
- Direction:
 - Budget committee to review funding options
 - Further financial analysis required before final decision

GOLF COURSE:

Groundcrew lead Dehler shares:

- Updates:
 - Course preparation underway
 - Seasonal hiring in progress
- Equipment discussion:
 - Need for long-term replacement planning
 - Potential sale of unused golf carts
 - Consider reinvesting proceeds into equipment
- Direction:
 - Continue developing equipment plan
 - Review cart inventory and needs

CLUBHOUSE:

Campground / Park Improvements (Grant-Funded Projects):

- Staff reported meeting with a vendor regarding Wi-Fi and camera system improvements at the park/campground.
- It was noted:
 - The proposed system would not require upgrades to the City's existing service package.
 - No immediate increase in monthly service costs is anticipated.
 - Future evaluation of service speeds may be considered during the next budget cycle.

Camera System:

- Proposed camera installations would improve safety and monitoring, including:
 - Coverage of the playground area
 - Coverage from the salt shed toward park facilities
 - Extended visibility toward the shower house
- Cameras are intended to address prior concerns related to vandalism and general park safety.
- Estimated total project cost: approximately \$37,700 (installation and equipment).
- Project is expected to be eligible for grant funding, with no direct impact on the City budget if awarded.
- General consensus that the camera system would be beneficial.

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Additional Grant-Funded Improvements:

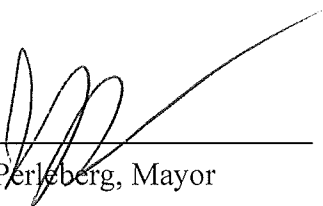
- Speed bumps proposed for campground/park roadways to improve safety:
 - Approximately three (3) locations identified, including:
 - Entrance area
 - Near crosswalk to shelter
 - Additional internal roadway location
- Fence installation discussed:
 - Approximately 100 feet in length
 - Located near the swimming area and firemen's shelter
 - Intended to guide pedestrian traffic and prevent children from running into the parking lot
- All above items would be included as part of a grant application, if pursued.
- Direction:
 - Bring resolution to following council meeting to submit with the grant.

CITY VEHICLES:

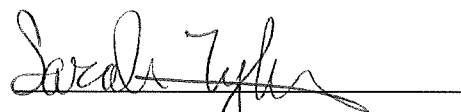
Vehicles were discussed in each departments section. Clubhouse and administration will purchase the squad car and the public works and golf course trucks will be sold.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Sarah Fyten seconded by Council Member Gary Berg to adjourn the city council meeting at 7:26 pm. Motion carried unanimously.



John Perleberg, Mayor



Sarah Fyten, City Clerk