

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
City Council Meeting
July 8th, 2024
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor John Perleberg, Council Member Don Bujalski, Council Member Jacque Johnson, Council Member Gary Berg, City Clerk Sarah Fyten, City Treasurer Kaye Stangl

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Laura Wacker, Park Complex Employee Brad Dehler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by the Council Member Gary Berg and seconded by Council Member Don Bujalski to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by the Council Member Gary Berg and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve the City Council Workshop Minutes from June 24, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

State Representative Isaac Schultz to give an update.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Don Bujalski and seconded by Council Member Jacque Johnson to approve the agenda with the addition. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING AND ZONING/BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS:

A concrete permit application by Clint Poster to remove an existing tar parking area at 107 3rd Ave NE and replace it with a 31 ft X 50 ft concrete slab was reviewed.

A residential fence permit application by Guy Anderson, 220 3rd Ave NE, to enclose a portion of his back yard with a 6 ft privacy fence was reviewed.

A building permit application by Kloss Homes to make a new 1500 sq ft house and attached garage on 310 Karst St was reviewed.

A building permit application by Mildred Joyce to move into the Mobile Home Park on lot 24 a 1996 Wick 16 ft by 76 ft trailer house and build a deck and wheelchair ramp was reviewed.

A motion was made by Council Member Jacque Johnson and Seconded by Council Member Sarah Fyten to approve the planning and zoning requests. Motion carried unanimously.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE:

Minnesota State Representative for House District 10B Isaac Schultz joined the meeting to give an update and to address any key priorities and concerns that Pierz may have. A lot has happened in the legislative session that was supposed be on policies in 2024. One item that came from the 2023 session was school resource officers and creating liability for local law enforcement. Many cities face challenges for our local law enforcement and school districts. We headed into the session to get it fixed and that was completed in March.

Schultz asks about some items that came up last year in Pierz and how it is going. One item being how Pierz handled the Emerald Ash Bore disease that we were experiencing in the campground and golf course. The city shares that we thought we would be proactive and purchased new trees versus spraying them. We raised the funds mostly from our PACC to buy around 50 trees.

The city decided to no longer investigate purchasing the gravel pit which worked out because FEMA placed it in the floodplain.

Jarrod Griffith shares that Pierz is doing a \$2 million street improvement that is roughly 40% complete.

The city is also working on completing the new nine and planning to open next spring.

Johnson shares that that we are reviewing the small cities development grant. Once reviewing it though she feels that it would be worth a thought to review different adjectives within the grant and not using items such as “blight”. We know we need to have a certain number of signatures for a petition, and it is difficult to ask our community when we are using words such as “blight”. Pierz has an incredible amount of pride and when we use words like that it makes us sound destitute and makes it difficult. It would be helpful if we utilized language that is more based on the age. Schultz stated when he gets back into session, which is January, he will be bringing this concern back. He may reach out and ask for input or there may be an opportunity to come and provide testimony in a committee to help lessen barriers for all cities.

PAY REQUEST:

SEH engineer, Jarod Griffith joined the meeting to shares that as of today the water main has been completed on Summer St. They will be wrapping up all storm sewers at the latest by the end of next week which will make all the storm sewers complete. Peter and 1st Ave will be blue topped the end of this week and planning to start curb and gutter next week.

Griffith requested the second pay application of \$486,518.66 which is roughly 33% of the project. The breakdown for RPSWD is \$198,428.72 and City of Pierz is \$288,089.94 of the pay application request.

A motion was made by Council Member Sarah Fyten and Seconded by Council Member Gary Berg to approve the pay application no. 2. Motion carried unanimously.

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TREASURER'S REPORTS:

June's balance was \$4,239,270.21.

A motion was made by Council Member Don Bujalski and seconded by Council Member Sarah Fyten to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS:

Total claims for June were \$597,390.02.

A motion was made by Council Member Sarah Fyten and seconded by Council Member Don Bujalski to approve the claims report. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Parks employee Brad Dehler shares an update on the new nine progress. Last week was a fantastic week, we were very busy. The washouts are about 60% complete. With the rain last night, about 9/10 we are a couple hours behind with patching. Since it was still fairly wet the focus for today were sprinkler heads. About half of the washouts that are completed are about entering the first half of mowing.

One thing that has come up is that we have 2 carts with hydraulic dumps. One of the carts has broken down. It is a clutch issue. They have managed to limp it along, but Zach and Brad are reviewing quotes for a replacement.

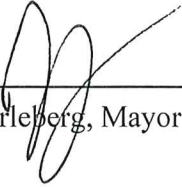
City Administrator Laura Wacker updates:

- The public works committee met last week to review the Pierz Sani contract that is coming due. Looking to bring it next meeting.
- The public hearing for the floodplain is scheduled for July 22 during the council meeting.
- Wacker is preparing for the budget and performance reviews.
- Public works director Eric Gaffke, and Wacker are working on updating the City's Solar Policy.
- City clerk, Sarah Fyten and Wacker have been doing the invoice approval and that has been going well.
- Monday, July 1, was a Park Board meeting where there was discussion about a cart path or potentially renumbering holes. This is all being discussed.
- Lastly an election update that can be found on the City's website. The filing period runs from July 30-August 13. Positions will need to be clarified. The openings are:
 - Mayor
 - 1 Council Member-2 year
 - 1 Council Member-4 year
 - Clerk-4 year
 - Treasurer-2 year

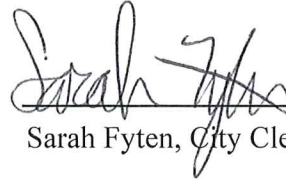
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ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Don Bujalski and seconded by Council Member Sarah Fyten to adjourn the city council meeting at 7:36 pm. Motion carried unanimously.



John Perleberg, Mayor



Sarah Fyten, City Clerk