

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
City Council Workshop
August 29th, 2022
6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Dave Fischer, Council Member Lynn Egan, Council Member Don Bujalski, City Clerk Kyle Bednar, Council Member Jacque Johnson by phone.

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Bob Otremba, Police Chief Eric Hanneken, and Park Complex Superintendent Zach Baert

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Dave Fischer at 6:00 pm.

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Lynn Egan and seconded by Council Member Don Bujalski to approve the agenda with the addition of the possible sale of the city shop property at 414 N Main St. Motion carried unanimously.

CANNABIS DISCUSSION:

Police Chief Eric Hanneken presented recent legislation passed by the State of MN allowing certain cannabis products to be sold over the counter. His concerns include pop-up shops selling the products, inadequate direction from the state on how to enforce the law, and lack of time cities had to react to how regulate and license businesses selling the products.

Pierz Business Owner Lisa Gall attended the workshop and explained she is diligent on her cannabis product research and is careful on selecting products for her retail store that are helpful and not harmful. She stated some of the products contain harmful chemicals and some business owners are only concerned about making sales and not the product quality. Lisa stated that 95% of the cannabis products for sale in Minnesota are from outside the state.

The city council discussed the option of implementing a one-year moratorium on selling the newly allowed cannabis products until research is completed on products, licensing, enforcement, and other issues. Chief Hanneken stated he will work with the League of Minnesota Cities on resolution language for the potential moratorium. He stated he will work with Lisa Gall and others during the potential moratorium to complete the necessary work on the cannabis issue.

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2023 BUDGET/LEVY DISCUSSION:

Mayor Dave Fischer presented the recommendation from the finance committee for the 2023 employee wages. Council Member Lynn Egan asked how the increase was determined for Assistant Park Complex Superintendent Jim Gross. City Administrator Bob Otremba stated he presented research for each of the city's positions to the finance committee comparing Pierz and other cities our size in Central Minnesota. Pierz was paying at the high end for this position compared to other cities in the survey.

Mayor Dave Fischer presented the 2023 budget as recommended by the finance committee. The budgeted revenues were \$3,933,957 and budgeted expenses were \$3,685,038. The council discussed the enterprise funds and how profits from these funds have been used to subsidize other funds in the city.

Mayor Dave Fischer asked for discussion on the property tax levy for 2023. The finance committee discussed a possible increase of 3% to 7% but left the increase open ended for other council members to discuss. Council Member Lynn Egan stated she would be in favor a 3% increase in the property tax levy. Council Member Don Bujalski agreed. City Clerk Kyle Bednar stated he would like to see an increase of 5% to 7% to close the gap on the budgeted deficit in the General Fund and the Fire Fund. Council Member Jacque Ballou stated the city needs to increase the levy to fix the deficit in these funds.

CITY SHOP DISCUSSION:

Mayor Dave Fischer explained the city has been approached by two different parties that are interested in purchasing the city shop property at 414 N Main St.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Don Bujalski and seconded by City Clerk Kyle Bednar to adjourn the city council workshop at 7:30 pm.



Dave Fischer, Mayor



Kyle Bednar, City Clerk