

CITY OF PIERZ
Official Minutes of the Pierz City Council
City Council Workshop
August 5th, 2020
5:30 PM

Members Present: Dave Fischer, Jacque Ballou, Don Bujalski, Kyle Bednar, Linda Sczublewski

Staff Present: Bob Otremba, Eric Hanneken

The City Council workshop was called to order at Pierz City Hall at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Dave Fischer.

PIERZ FOODS LOADING DOCK RELOCATION:

Mayor Dave Fischer explained the Pierz Foods loading dock issue of delivery trucks blocking 3rd Ave NW. He informed the council of his communication with Pierz Foods owner Allen Dahmen since the last city council workshop regarding the council's proposal of offering a loan/grant to fund the project. Allen was not interested in moving forward with the project unless the city was willing to abide by the cost participation as originally proposed by Morrison County: 50% Morrison County, 25% Pierz Foods, and 25% City of Pierz.

County Engineer Steve Backowski explained the project that was originally scheduled to be a simple mill and overlay by the county not involving utilities and a trail. As the project planning progressed, Rich Prairie Sewer and Water District recognized the opportunity to solve their utility issues and the city of Pierz recognized the opportunity to complete a segment of its Master Trail Plan. The City of Pierz then received two grants to cover the cost of the trail construction less engineering and Right-of-Way acquisition. The Safe Routes to School grant that was received will require a project memorandum that will need to document the loading dock issue at Pierz Foods because of the federal money that is involved. He explained that if the City of Pierz is the reason that the loading dock is not relocated it would go against the spirit of the grant to encourage an open and safe alternative transportation option. He also explained that this will be the best opportunity for all involved parties to complete the project. Steve discussed that legally if the city does not opt for this solution now, the cost and complexity of completing the project in the future would increase dramatically.

City Engineer Scott Hedlund concurred the points made by County Engineer Steve Backowski.

Council Member Don Bujalski stated that he is in favor of the project but, would like to have a loan portion of the assistance package to build a pool of funds to enable future businesses an opportunity to have assistance. He also has concerns about setting precedence that would force the City of Pierz to subsidize other businesses projects with the same percentage of participation. A discussion about Kurtz Furniture having the same situation with delivery trucks followed. Police Chief Eric Hanneken stated the deliveries at Kurtz Furniture are rare and are quite often handled without blocking traffic. Kurtz Furniture is not interested at this time in moving forward with a new loading dock, but the discussion was that the county and the city would consider future projects like this.

Council Member Jacque Ballou and City Clerk Kyle Bednar stated they were in favor of the project to improve safety and utilize the SCDP Program income funds.

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Police Chief Eric Hanneken added that with the school having less busing available and the number of children in the trailer park, there will likely be more children walking to school.

City Administrator Bob Otremba spoke on the parked delivery trucks being a hazard for fire department response and snow plowing operations.

The Pierz Foods loading dock relocation issue will be on the agenda for the Monday, August 10th, 2020 city council meeting.

ASSESSMENT POLICY:

City Engineer Scott Hedlund presented the current City of Pierz Assessment Policy and two policies from other cities for comparison. He would like to clarify definitions in the current City of Pierz policy and add substance to the policy as well. The city council directed City Engineer Scott Hedlund and City Administrator Bob Otremba to move forward with revising the assessment policy and use the City of St. Joseph policy as an example.

OTHER ITEMS:

Mayor Dave Fischer updated the council on Centennial Drive grant opportunities and the open house for the 2021 3rd Ave N project on Thursday, August 13th, 2020 at Pierz Healy High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.



Dave Fischer, Mayor



Kyle Bednar, City Clerk