

**Pierceton Town Council Meeting  
Pierceton Community Building  
105 W Walnut St  
Monday, June 10, 2024  
6:30 p.m.**

**Opening**

The monthly meeting of the Pierceton Town Council was called to order immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Glenn Hall.

**Present**

Council Members Glenn Hall, and Matt Brubaker. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Marshal Jim Bumbaugh and Town Superintendent Casey Boggs.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- A public hearing was held prior to the regular council meeting to review a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$45,000. The additional funds are needed to pay the engineering costs for the K21 Pierceton-Washington Township Community Park projects.
- The only question presented to the council as the floor was opened for comments prior to approval was a question regarding the list of projects. These projects were approved last year by the K21 Foundation and will include the tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, repairs to the pavilions, dugouts and the sidewalk on Seventh Street.
- Matt Brubaker motioned to approve the additional appropriation in the CEDIT Fund and Glenn seconded. The vote carried with a 2-0 vote.

The public hearing adjourned at 6:33 pm.

**The regular meeting of the Pierceton Town Council was called to order immediately following the public hearing at 6:33 pm.**

**COUNCIL – GLENN HALL**

- Council President Glenn Hall stated that the council has heard comments, concerns and complaints for the past five month regarding the Third Street sidewalk project which was approved by the previous council in 2022. The council has listened to the following comments and Glenn asked for a show of hands for acknowledgment of these statements:
  - Those “opposed” to the Third Street project.
  - Those who have expressed that they “do not want the sidewalks.”
  - Those who have expressed that they “do not want trees cut down.”
  - Those who have expressed the project is causing them anxiety.
  - Those who are concerned about the drainage issues on Third Street in relation to the sidewalk project.
  - Those who are concerned about the number of people who will or will not use the sidewalk.
    - There was a show of hands of five to seven people depending on the question.
  - Glenn asked the town clerk to record these statements in the minutes and that the Pierceton Town Council has heard the concerns and the objections of a few of the residents of Pierceton, have repeated back to them the same, as acknowledged by their

affirmation and that the current Town Council has taken all of those comments into consideration.

- Glenn advised that he read through all minutes back to the 2022 and reviewed all OCRA and MACOG documents in relation to the sidewalk project and determined that the sidewalk project is an appropriate project and will respectfully continue what the previous council started. He has no reason to believe that there were no inappropriate actions taken or without opportunity for community advisement.
- The council will no longer take questions regarding the history of the project but will take questions from residents regarding the current status or the next steps.
- A list of meeting rules were read by Glenn. Matt Brubaker made a motion to adopt these rules for the council meeting beginning with the present meeting and all future meetings. Glenn seconded and the motion passed with a 2-0 vote.
- The list of rules will be posted at the door of the Community Room before each meeting.
- A copy of the previously mentioned rules will be included with these minutes.

### **GUESTS**

- Doug Gregory – Pierceton School Alumni Association
  - Challenges loss of membership and how to remain viable in the community.
  - Would like the work with the town and the town would be the designated party to maintain and preserve the PSAA assets. They currently have approximately \$20,000. \$250 stipend annually would be paid for the maintenance of the assets.
  - Would like a designated place in Pierceton for meetings and would eventually like a visitor's center in town.
  - Glenn Hall previously met with Doug and would like a type of museum for the storage of all the historical items the PSAA has and the council would like to have more meeting regarding this and talk to Leesburg who has already taken on this responsibility.
- Chad Salzbrenner (Fleis & Vandenbrink) – Projects Update
  - Sidewalk Project: School Street to Third to Catholic Street. Plan to bid project Fall of 2024 and project to be completed by the end of 2025. Received right of acquisition for two properties that was required.
  - Next steps for the sidewalk project: complete plans, project manual, insurance bonds, bids from contractors.
  - K21 park projects: replacing four dugouts, replacing tennis courts with one tennis court and adding two pickleball courts, sidewalk on Seventh Street on the school property, concrete base for the pavilions and basketball courts. Estimated cost is \$221,000. Casey has a few projects he and staff will be doing as they do not require engineering services.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- Special Meeting May 9, 2024 @ 7:30 pm
- Public Hearing May 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
- Council Meeting May 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
- Special Meeting May 30, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

### **APPROVALS**

- A letter to INDOT approving the upcoming addition of ADA curb ramps and accompanying sidewalk improvements to the scope of the project was signed by Glenn Hall.
- Council approved the purchase of a new Ford Explorer to replace the 2023 Ford that was totaled when it was rearended on US 30 on May 31, 2024. The quote was provided by Bloomington Ford in the amount of \$45,057.25.



- Approval was given by a 2-0 vote to contract with Reach Alert. The first year will be free to the town and the quote received for years two and three was half the price the town is currently paying to archive social media accounts. Reach Alert will take the place of the town's Facebook page.
- Once the new police vehicle is in service, the council voted unanimously to sell the 2015 Ford Fusion as it is not a proper police vehicle and to seek a proper used vehicle to replace it in the PPD.
- Road closure for SR 13 was approved after a motion by Matt Brubaker. The road will be closed from noon on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to Midnight on August 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Pierceton Days Festival. The detour will be from SR 5 to US 30. The local traffic will be rerouted onto Elm Street.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT -MARSHAL JIM BUMBAUGH**

- A list of 25 properties that have obvious ordinance violations has been provided to the council and clerk and letters will be sent out soon to those property owners. Marshal Bumbaugh expressed a desire to clean up the town as a resident of the town. These violations will be enforced per ordinances that are currently in place. He believes residents are being defiant in not cleaning up their property. Glenn Hall rode with Bumbaugh to view the properties on the list.
- The area of the new shooting range is being accessed by people who are ignoring the restricted area signs. Bumbaugh suggested a gate be added that can be easily locked. He reiterated that this is a restricted location.
- Deputy Marshal was acknowledged by Marshal Bumbaugh with a letter of appreciation for her assistance to the FBI. She did leg work for the FBI in a case regarding online threats. She helped locate other victims and an individual that was then arrested.

#### **UTILITY/STREET REPORT – CASEY BOGGS**

- The leak on SR 13 has been repaired with affected 13 residents due to the water being shut off. They were instructed to follow a boil water advisory. Lexlil donated water to the affected residents while they were under the boil water advisory.
- Casey has planned a land survey to be completed on the north side of Brower Park which is needed prior to any plans for any future building to be added to the park.
- Staff will begin painting curbs and verified with council which spaces to eliminate for a safer view for motorists pulling onto SR 13 from Market. The town may need to petition the state to install a traffic light on SR 13 to ensure safety. A total of four spot will be eliminated, spots on both sides of the road north and south of Market Street. Council voted approving the removal of the parking spots.

#### **CLERK REPORT – MYRA MAST**

- Received a quote from LWG for a stormwater rate study due to the town currently has no fund to repair, replace or install tile to remedy the drainage issues in town. The clerk will obtain a quote from a different before requesting a decision by the council.
- Clerk, Myra Mast, advised HB 1167 will be effective July 1, 2025. This bill requires all municipality meetings to be livestreamed and archived.
- Spring Trash Pick Up Day is June 15, 2024. Items need to be curbside by 7:00 am.
- The clerk's office will be closed Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The clerk and deputy clerk will be attending the ILMCT (Indiana League of Municipal Clerk's and Treasurers) training and the State Board of Accounts call to meeting in South Bend. Emergency contact numbers will be posted on Facebook.

## **RECREATION BOARD REPORT- CASEY BOGGS**

- The town council approved the Pierceton Youth League's request to install concrete slabs at the bleachers to designate as handicap areas and to extend the sidewalk that cuts short of connecting to the trail. Glenn advised the PYL will need to follow ADA rules.
- Council approved PYL putting in a new air conditioning unit in the concession stand. PYL will cover the full cost. The town will be responsible for paying the monthly utility bill.
- A quote for a new 35-foot flagpole was approved by the town council. The cost is \$3384. The recreation board would like to use the \$1500 donated by the Lions Club. Chris Stahly from Lexlil will help with the installation of the pole. A 6'x10' flag is recommended.
- Waiting for a quote for gutter work at the concession stand.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Chelsie Creekmore from Camden Construction had called about the use of a lot on the corner of Seventh and Catholic Streets. They would like to place a stick build tiny house on the property. Per the town ordinance, the home would need to be a minimum of 720 square feet with one side of the home being a minimum of 23 feet. Chelsie is willing to bring the home to the requires size by adding on. The council tabled until plans with dimensions are received.
- A caucus will be held on June 20, 2024 to replace the vacant position on the town council. It is open to the public however the only votes will be from the Republican Precinct Committee Men. There will be no public input but the candidates will give a short speech.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

- Patty Bradley who lives on Third Street stated her neighbor has a pile of soil he intends to use to level the alley between their homes. He told her he will be planting grass seed and was told by the town that he could do that as the town no longer plows that alley. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast will check into this as the property owner would need to address the council for this type of approval.
- Kelsea Degaetano, chamber president, would like to see if owners of the buildings on First Street would allow flags to be placed on their buildings as they used to be on the NIPSCO poles in the past.
- Annie Espinoza refused to present her statement from the podium and asked Glenn Hall, Matt Brubaker and Myra Mast to step down from their elected position. She stated the three were not representing her. Glenn Hall thanked her for her comment.
- Business owner, Rob Neel, thanked the Pierceton Police Department for their diligence in the community.

## **CLAIM DOCKET**

- The claim docket was approved in the amount of \$103,871.45.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Next Council Meeting August 12, 2024, at 6:30 pm
- Redevelopment Commission Meeting July 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Glenn E. Hall

Council President

Myra L. Mast

Clerk-Treasurer