



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2016
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Pittman gave the invocation and Commissioner Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Baker
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12-10-15

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt asked if anyone wished to comment on a non-agenda item. He introduced a visitor to the meeting, Todd Sutton. He said Mr. Sutton is currently running for a seat on the Johnston County Board of Education. Mr. Sutton then said that he is traveling around the county to introduce himself. He said he is involved with the local schools, that he has two children in the school system and that his wife teaches in Johnston County. He felt there are two issues to address in public education, one being growth management of the school system. He said Johnston County is growing about one school a year. His second concern was teachers' pay/supplements, and keeping good teachers in the school system. He felt the schools could be made a little safer with some simple adjustments and ideas. He asked for everyone's support and prayers and said that if he wins, he will be an advocate for all children and their parents, as well. Mayor Holt thanked Mr. Sutton for attending the meeting and for his comments, and wished him well in the upcoming primary.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The Pine Level Seniors Group met Wednesday morning. Scottie Hayes said they heard a presentation from a local funeral home and they had a good group in attendance.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Everything going well. Still installing equipment in new car, will soon have it completed. Chief distributed copy of NCGS160A-194, pertaining to privilege licenses. He felt it would be beneficial for the town to reinstate privilege licenses, although they would not apply to any profession or trade that is licensed to practice by the state. He said it would assist in regulating businesses and bringing them into compliance with town regulations. Town Attorney Frank Wood added that it would be used mainly to track what businesses are operating in town. Chief Sparks said he could put together a plan and the mayor said to go ahead with it. Noted that Sgt. Ashley Woodard has applied for a couple of grants for the police department.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. DOT started work on drainage project on West Main Street. Residents of that area should be happy to see that. Got a call about water standing at back of school area; Ray Stuckey took backhoe over there and cleaned out a bit and got water to flow.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Just started basketball season. Need to start thinking about July Fourth already. Scottie Hayes said Reverse Raffle will be held on March 5th. Spring sports registration starts next week.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Asked Dan Simmons about progress with SEARCH grant, Mr. Simmons said they would hopefully finish in 2-3 weeks and then go over their findings. Repairs made to garbage truck and it is operational again.

FIRE DEPT: Paul Allen reported the department would be having two classes this month. Mayor Holt thanked the fire department for their contributions to the town.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

None.

SCHOOL MASCOT

Commissioner Baker noted that the board talked earlier about the changes taking place at Micro-Pine Level Elementary School, and they made a request to the school board to revert the name of the school mascot to the old name of "Green Hornets." He asked if anything further ever came of that request; Mayor Holt said the principal, Alan Sasser, asked about it when the fourth graders came to the town hall and met with the mayor a couple of months back. Randy Jones stated that School Board member Larry Strickland commented at a recent speech that the new Micro Elementary School would revert back to the "Black Widows" mascot and Pine Level to the "Green Hornets."

JC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Holt commented on the fact that a big announcement came out today concerning a \$272 million dollar intermodal rail terminal to be constructed by CSX somewhere between Selma and Micro. He introduced Chris Johnson, who heads up Johnston County's Economic Development office. Mr. Johnson said it was indeed an exciting time in the economic development community. He pointed out the expansion coming to Novo Nordisk and the announcement concerning the CSX terminal and what a boost it would be for the county's economy. He likened it to the announcement of the billion dollar lottery winners from the night before, and said Selma, Johnston County, and the entire area were really going to be the winners. The transportation hub would bring many jobs to the area. He explained that it is not a train yard, but it operates basically like an inland port. He felt it would truly be a great opportunity for Johnston County and would bring with it a wave of growth and industry to this area. He said the governor is stressing the area's connectivity with the state's ports. He stated that the CSX facility should be here in 2019 and the local areas need to be looking at how it will affect them and how they want to grow and where they want to see industrial growth.

He said the developers are looking at properties between Selma and Micro, and natural gas will be a key need for them. The facility will be an all-electric site. He pointed out that Pine Level already has Randy Jones on the Economic Development Board, and Mr. Jones said he would be more than happy to work closely with his hometown of Pine Level and point out properties and likely areas for growth and be ready for the growth that will come to the area. Commissioner Garner said he was glad to see a county representative in Pine Level, offering something to assist with the town's future. Mr. Johnson said there are always issues to work around, but the economic development office has funds to help bring in a firm, named Sanford Holshouser, that will come into the area and do a study and identify properties that would be available for development. The fee for the study would be \$5,000; economic development would pitch in \$4,000 and the town could pay the balance.

Commissioner Pittman commented that north/south tracks are CSX, but the east/west tracks through Pine Level are owned by the North Carolina Railroad and Norfolk Southern trains run through the town. He asked how receptive were they going to be to this project; Mr. Johnson said they were not involved in this project and he agreed that they typically are at odds. Commissioner Pittman said the railroad has not usually been an area that you would consider friendly. Mr. Johnson said he had a good working relationship with the people in charge of this project and that Johnston County had to be ready to meet the growth this was going to generate. Mayor Holt then thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and for his work on behalf of the county.

PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The mayor called for a public hearing on amendments to the Pine Level Zoning Ordinance, concerning zoning permits, yard sales and flea markets, as proposed by the Planning Board. The hearing will be on Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m., after which time the amendments can be adopted as is, further changed, or tabled. He said thank you to the Planning Board members for their work on the proposed amendments.

Commissioner Anderson asked about an earlier zoning issue that the board discussed, having to do with the small "flea market" business on Hwy. 70-A. She asked if they weren't supposed to bring in all of their tables at night and not leave them out all of the time. Scottie Hayes said he and the police chief went to talk with the business operator and that he removed about 90% of the outdoor tables. Commissioner Anderson said she was just curious over what was going on with them. Scottie Hayes said he would do whatever the board wanted him to do. Mayor Holt asked if the business operator and the property owner came and met with the planning board. Randy Holloman said a few of the tables could be put out during the daytime and they should be put up each night. Commissioner Anderson said he should have to do whatever he has been told to do. Mayor Holt said to stop by and tell the business operator in a more firm manner that he has to comply.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Holt read an invitation to go and meet and eat with NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler. He also read thank you cards from Officer Alan Lee, who had a death in his family, and from Mrs. Jackie Woodard, who had a bad fall and was injured. He also said that plans are in the works for a monument of some type, in recognition of the 16,000 Civil War soldiers who were encamped at Pine Level in 1865. He said it would then be a part of the state's historic Civil War Trail.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to address, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR