



**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 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, February 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**

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and Commissioner Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Pittman  
*SECOND:* Garner  
*VOTE:* unanimous

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 01-14-16**

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Garner  
*SECOND:* Baker  
*VOTE:* unanimous

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Holt asked if anyone wished to comment on a non-agenda item. He introduced a visitor to the meeting, Keith Branch, who is currently running for Johnston County Commissioner. Mr. Branch spoke briefly and pledged his support to the Town of Pine Level, if he is successful in getting elected. He explained his work history and his beliefs as to what will be important to the future of Johnston County. He introduced his wife, and he stated that he would always be available to help if he is elected.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS**

Mayor Holt then opened a required public hearing on proposed zoning amendments dealing with flea markets and garage sales, said hearing having been duly advertised on January 27th and February 3rd in *The Kenly News*. The mayor noted that the Planning Board recommended approval of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Holt first asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the amendments. Planning Board member Terry Rains commented that the amendments might not result in a win/win situation, but they were needed since the ordinance did not address either issue. Town Attorney Frank Wood said they were okay, but the penalty of thirty days in confinement would probably never apply in real life. The mayor then asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition to the amendments. Hearing no other comment, the board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

*MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING:* Pittman

*SECOND:* Garner

*VOTE:* unanimous

The board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as presented. A copy of the amendments is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Pittman

*SECOND:* Baker

*VOTE:* unanimous

Next, the mayor commented that the Planning Board felt it would be a good idea to require a zoning permit for any new business that should come to town. The police chief stated that he distributed copies of what he thinks is needed to license any new business. He said that he just wanted to get input right now on reinstating privilege licenses. Frank Wood said you might be able to combine the two, if the town decides to require a zoning permit. Commissioner Anderson felt that privilege licenses were no longer allowed. Frank Wood explained that privilege licenses were no longer a revenue source, but you could charge a nominal fee for processing, such as \$5.00. The chief said he did not propose a fee for the permit he was talking about, but it would be non-transferable. Frank Wood commented that it would not be an annual thing, but a one-time permit. Commissioner Garner asked if it would apply only in the city limits, or inside the ETJ as well. The chief said he would not recommend going out of town. Commissioner Pittman said he would like to review the proposal for thirty days before making a decision. Mayor Holt agreed that they could review it for the next thirty days.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

Nester McClain said the Seniors group met yesterday and they had a good meeting. They are planning another trip to the Amish country in April.

## **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

**STREETS:** Commissioner Baker. Cold weather causing issues with potholes in the streets. Garbage truck still an issue, with several repair bills. Ray Stuckey pointed out that USDA offered to loan money for projects such as a garbage truck, backhoe, or whatever, and they would have longer paybacks and lower interest rates. USDA said they have money to loan and they could beat any offer from local banks. Mayor Holt said they could consider that at budget time. Drainage project on West Main Street progressing.

**POLICE:** Commissioner Garner. Police car just about ready to put in use. Chief added that they are trying to get all the equipment installed on the new car.

**RECREATION:** Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports registration underway. Reverse Raffle coming up in March.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Several breaks have occurred in water lines. Thanks to the public works guys for keeping everything working. Kester Kornegay asked what happened with discussions on replacing old water lines in town. Commissioner Pittman replied that money was the issue. Mayor commented that they did a study in the past on water lines, but then the water tank, the town hall, and water filtration issues came along, and now the garbage truck needs replacing. Commissioner Pittman said they were limited in ways to finance growth and loans have to be repaid. He asked Dan Simmons to give a report on the SEARCH grant project. Mr. Simmons said they have nearly completed their study on sewer issues. He said the town used 64 million gallons of sewer last year and they only billed out 34 million gallons. He said they looked for major inflow and infiltration issues in a sewer system that was installed in 1978. He said the lines were installed in road shoulders, in ditches, etc. and that big rains are causing the problems. He said many seals on the manholes are now broken, and they recommend replacing them with flexible rib seals, which will cost \$500 each to purchase and install. They also looked at pump run-times and found that the eastside station is pumping less than 10% more when two pumps are running, due to the 4" force main that comes into that station. They felt that a 6" main would get the capacity out of the pumps that is needed, and the larger piping is needed at the eastside and the southside stations. He added that the manholes need to be vented and the snorkels should be high enough to keep inflow out, on every third manhole. He said their recommendations would be a major project, costing about \$200,000. USDA has money available for 40 years at 2.5% right now. Mr. Simmons said they need to sit down and discuss the issues and decide what route to pursue. Commissioner Baker asked if that includes both sides of town, and Mr. Simmons said everything as far as inflow and infiltration, but it did not include the pumps or force mains, which could run another \$200,000. Mayor Holt said the town already paid the county to treat two times as much sewage as was billed to customers and now the town needs to decide how to handle the sewer issues. Kester Kornegay questioned if the larger main would be needed if the inflow problems were corrected. Gene Cobb explained that the town has grown since the sewer was constructed, and the pumps are stretched out physically, and they are going to have to be upsized at some point. Mayor Holt commented that the board members need to get together and talk about the projects and decide how to proceed.

FIRE DEPT: Paul Allen reported that they held a class last month aimed at lowering the ISO rating. Had Ag Rescue Class to prepare for large farm eqpt. accidents, etc. 5K race coming up on March 26th, Firemen's Day in Day.

#### **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

None.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Anderson reported that town went in with Lions' Club and purchased a defibrillator for use at the school and recreation events.

Mentioned change in elementary school next year and plans to change mascot back to "Green Hornet." Mayor asked Keith Branch to remember that at the school board. Mr. Branch said he didn't remember hearing about that, but he would check with facilities services. Mayor Holt said it would not require a lot of changing to bring it about.

#### **MAYOR'S MINUTE**

Mayor Holt read a thank you card from employee, Billie Kay Twigg, whose aunt, Mrs. Nancy Clarke, recently passed away. Mrs. Clarke worked many years at the local bank and she was also town clerk for Pine Level many years back.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:55 p.m. the board voted unanimously to enter closed session for purposes of discussing personnel issues.

*MOTION:* Garner

*SECOND:* Pittman

*VOTE:* unanimous

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

After the closed session, the board re-entered regular session and the meeting adjourned.

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TOWN CLERK

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MAYOR