



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 10, 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, March 10, 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, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDITIONS:
Closed Session for personnel

DELETIONS:

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 02-11-16

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to comment on a non-agenda item. Hearing no comment, he proceeded to the next item of business.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENIORS: Had a good meeting yesterday at the Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church fellowship hall. Planning a trip in April.

PLANNING BOARD: Chairman Randy Holloman, Berry Godwin, Terry Rains and Nester McClain were present. Mr. Holloman advised that they have been reviewing the town's Zoning Ordinance over their last two meetings and they hope to finish that task in April. Will probably result in a couple of recommended changes. They continue to have concerns over lack of enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance. Encouraged board members to read Article 6, section 601 of the zoning ordinance, having to do with administration and amendments, starting on page 69, to see if the town is complying with the terms of the ordinance. Mr. Holloman said they are aware of a man that would agree to administer the town's zoning on a part time basis, as he does with two other local municipalities. Berry Godwin said enforcing the ordinance could be a challenge for a local person, but he said the planning board members are just volunteers, and they do not know all the ins and outs of zoning. He said the town is going to grow when the US 70 corridor is completed and they will need someone in place to make the tough decisions. He said someone could ride through town once a week and see what building is taking place, and he did not think the current zoning officer has adequate time to do that with his recreation responsibilities. He said they talk about enforcement every year but nothing gets done about it.

Commissioner Garner asked about the sign requirements. He said a lot of signs in town are out of compliance, even at the town hall, and he thought that political signs larger than 4 square feet should be allowed. Mayor Holt disagreed that Pine Level would see growth come from the US 70 project, he cited Clayton as an example. He also asked what could be done if they did hire a part-time zoning officer, and he was not available when the office is open and citizens are applying for permits. He felt that zoning and growth are important issues, but not as important as the town needing a new garbage truck, or sewer repairs, or working to improve drainage. He said the board could consider a part-time person if they come and meet with the board and have a discussion. Keith Sparks, police chief, said he would volunteer to attend classes in zoning at the School of Government. He said he would not want to see criminal issues combined with civil violations, however.

Commissioner Baker asked Mr. Holloman if his recent complaint concerning livestock in town was handled to his satisfaction, and if the process including a signed complaint worked out alright. Commissioner Garner said the attorney advised the town to require a signed complaint form. Mr. Holloman said it was taken care of, but he did not feel that it was a fair system for citizens to have to complain when they could have someone on staff for them to go to and talk about any problems they are having. He also asked if the zoning officer is supposed to go on site and measure and make sure that set-backs are observed, because he did not think that it is currently being done, and he asked who would that come back on if a problem develops. He said it was not the county's responsibility to check to see that building complies with the town's zoning ordinance. He said the zoning ordinance specifies that a certificate of occupancy is to be issued. Mayor Holt said to get more information from the proposed zoning officer. Commissioner Pittman agreed that someone in place could take care of problems before they get out of hand. He said he would be willing to hear from the man, and Commissioner Anderson agreed. Mr. Holloman said they would be glad to get more information for next month.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Garbage truck working right now. Things going well, otherwise. Recent windstorm blew some garbage carts around, causing minor damage to the carts. May need to repair broken lids or wheels, etc. Berry Godwin suggested that the town follow up with Duke Energy when street light outages are reported to make sure that repairs are completed.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Finishing up basketball season. Reverse Raffle held March 5th. People are not as interested in the raffle anymore. Berry Godwin suggested having entertainment at the raffle. Scottie Hayes said spring sports registration is underway, with 5 baseball teams, 2 softball and tee ball teams. Porta potties have been ordered for park recreation season; need to put mulch out at the new playground area. "Relay for Life" has asked about using the park for a fundraiser. Commissioner Anderson agreed that they could pay half price for using the fields. July Fourth to be observed on Monday this year.

MOTION TO CHARGE "RELAY FOR LIFE" HALF PRICE: Anderson

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. No problems currently. Citizens should watch out for kids playing around outside, now that the weather is warming.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Still waiting for proposals for sewer repairs. Mayor Holt said USDA has money to loan for around 2%, and it might work out for the town to refinance the water tank project, along with the sewer repairs and get better interest rates, since the project would be significant.

FIRE DEPT: Paul Allen said they were hosting a "Daddy/Daughter Dance" at the fire station. He also said they will hold their 5K run on March 26th.

FINANCE: Clerk reported that Johnston County billed for over 8 million gallons of wastewater treatment in February, or \$32,346.97. Felt that budget amendments will take care of the increased amount of treatment costs. Proposed budget amendments were approved for 2015-2016; a copy is included with and hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT BUSINESS PERMITS

Mayor Holt then asked about the proposal for business permits, as suggested by Chief Sparks at the February meeting. Commissioner Pittman said he would like to implement the permit requirement, effective July 1, 2016, at a one-time fee of \$10.00. Commissioner Anderson pointed out that it would only be a one-time permit for all businesses, not an annual thing. The mayor asked how to go about notifying the existing businesses. Chief Sparks said the police could distribute the permits to the business locations. Frank Wood said it would be good for identifying and keeping up with what is going on in town. The board voted unanimously in favor of the proposal from Commissioner Pittman.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

CAPE FEAR HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Next, the board met with Kim Robertson, from Johnston County Emergency Services. Ms. Robertson advised the board that it was once again time to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and since FEMA is pushing for regional plans now, they have partnered with the Cape Fear Plan. She said that Johnston County has already adopted the plan, and they are visiting with the municipalities to get their approval as well. The board voted unanimously to approve the plan and to adopt the resolution approving the Cape Fear Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference. Ms. Robertson thanked the board for the cooperation they receive from Pine Level.

MOTION TO ADOPT: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt mentioned an article in this week's edition of *The Kenly News*, commemorating the Civil War period when 14,000 Union troops camped around Pine Level.

CLOSED SESSION

There being no other business to transact, at 8:00 p.m. the board voted unanimously to enter closed session to consider personnel issues. The mayor announced the closed session should be short and he anticipated the board would take no action.

MOTION: Anderson

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

At 8:55 p.m., closed session came to an end, the board re-entered regular session and voted unanimously to adjourn.

MOTION: Anderson

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR