



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 09, 2015
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum present, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Pittman called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 MAYOR JEFF HOLT (working out of town)

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor PT Pittman asked to observe a moment of silence in memory of Joseph Fred Pope, a hard-working employee of the town from April 1987 to June 2002. Mr. Pope passed away on April 4th and his funeral was held earlier today. He also commented that Mrs. Louise Simmons, mother to Dan Simmons, passed away at the end of March. He then asked Commissioner Baker to give the invocation and Commissioner Anderson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 03-12-15

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO JEFF CROCKER

Mayor PT Pittman then asked Jeff Crocker, one of the town's public works employees, to come forward. Mr. Crocker will celebrate his twentieth anniversary of employment with the town on April 27, 2015. He told Mr. Crocker that he has been an asset to the community, and that he has always worked hard for the town. He said that he has never had a complaint on Mr. Crocker in all those twenty years. He congratulated Mr. Crocker on reaching that milestone and he presented him with a plaque commemorating his twenty years of service and with a gift card from the town. He thanked him for all that he does for the town and everyone gave Mr. Crocker a round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darlene Williford, Executive Director of the JC Arts Council, then addressed the board. She asked that they consider a contribution to the Arts program in the schools. She said the art programs help to educate children and the programs do make an impact on children's lives. She explained that Mary Daughtry represents the Pine Level area on the arts council. Mrs. Williford also said she could earmark any funds given by the town to stay in the local schools. She asked to be remembered in upcoming budget planning. Mayor PT Pittman thanked Mrs. Williford for coming to talk with them and said they would consider her request in the new budget.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENIORS: Nester McClain reported that the Seniors group met on the eighth of the month and had a good program, with good attendance.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Hope to get new police car this month. Everything going well. Asked that citizens be on the watch for either suspicious people or vehicles. Received SBI audit report for department and everything came out good. Any questions on the report should be directed to Chief Sparks, who is back at work after having been hospitalized for a few days.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports getting underway. July 4th in planning stages. Received fireworks proposal from Southeastern Pyrotechnics, for a total of \$9400. Commissioner Anderson thought the contract looked okay. Frank Wood said he reviewed it and it was okay, although he did not like the restrictions to negotiations in the state of South Carolina. He said they also referenced Georgia state codes and federal legislation, and that they have two million dollars in liability coverage. The board unanimously approved the fireworks proposal.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

Commissioner Baker asked about having fireworks on Friday night. Commissioner Garner said they could look at having the fireworks on a different night next year since the Fourth will fall on Sunday, and they could get away from having the fireworks on the actual Fourth. Public Works employees are tearing down old stage at park. Need to haul in dirt in the swings area. Park was treated for fireants.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Mentioned a problem discovered in LaBelle Acres on Dogwood Lane. The iron piping under the street has rusted out and disintegrated and it starting to erode the side. Commissioner Anderson said the ditch was clogged up. Ray Stuckey said he got it cleaned out, but the piping is going to eventually need replacement. He said it was about forty feet of pipe and he would replace it with concrete pipe instead of iron. Mayor PT Pittman asked Mr. Stuckey to bring back an estimate next month on how much the repairs would cost, and they could go from there. Commissioner Baker said that patching on town streets was getting underway. Mr. Stuckey said they already cut the tree roots from under the pavement and they have peeled back the street edges to prepare for resurfacing.

WATER/SEWER: Ray Stuckey reported the completion of washing down the water tank, both inside and out. He said it looks much better now.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Frank Wood reported on an issue that came up at the March board meeting, concerning the Hinnant Winery. He talked with Bob Hinnant and he explained that the Hinnants want to take the unfortified wine they produce and distill it down to make brandy, and then to add that back to the wine to make Port, Sherry, which originated in Spain, and Madeira wines, which originated in Morocco. Mr. Hinnant is in the process of filing for permits from the state and the timeline is not as urgent as thought previously. He will eventually file for a permit from the town as well. Mr. Wood asked if he had other future plans and Mr. Hinnant indicated they would eventually like to sell beer at the winery. He said that he told Mr. Hinnant to hold off on that idea until he could talk with the county authorities. He added that the Hinnants would actually be making liquor to add to their wine product to create "fortified wines," which differ according to their alcoholic content.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Baker said that he met the new hospital manager and he and his family researched the area before moving here and decided that Pine Level was the best of all the towns they researched in the area and so they chose to come to Pine Level, and they are living on Herring Street.

Mayor PT Pittman reported that he has repeatedly called Time Warner to inquire about the equipment boxes they are going to require for TV service, but he cannot get a response from them. He said he would keep trying to make contact with them.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

For the Mayor's Minute, Mayor PT Pittman read several humorous ordinances from the town's ordinance book, dated 1947.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR