



**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**MAY 12, 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, May 12, 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**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Pittman gave the invocation and Girl Scout Emily Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ADDITIONS:           Closed Session (Garner)

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Anderson

*SECOND:* Pittman

*VOTE:* unanimous

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 04-14-16**

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Anderson

*SECOND:* Baker

*VOTE:* unanimous

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The mayor first recognized Chuck Hardison, representing Woodmen of the World, now known as Woodmen Life. Mr. Hardison presented two American flags and two NC flags to the town on behalf of the organization. He said to let him know if the town has flag needs in the future. He also mentioned the availability of "RedBasket.org," which Woodmen Life offers on their website for fund raising needs and they provide matching funds up to \$25. Mr. Hardison thanked the town for the opportunity to make this presentation, and the board in turn, thanked him for coming, and for what his organization does for local schools and communities.

Mayor Holt then recognized the members of PL-Princeton Junior Girl Scout Troop 1092 and their leaders and parents. He said that Scout Leader Tina Grimes approached him weeks back, about the possibility of doing a project at the town's recreation park. They cleaned up the area around the front sign and the planter boxes, and they planted some flowers and repainted the sign lettering. He praised the girls for the work they did at the park and he commented on how nice the area now looks. He then presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation from the town for their accomplishments at the park.

The mayor then recognized Boy Scout leader Leo Creech, who also wanted to propose a Scout project. Mr. Creech offered to have his Scout group build a sign board for the Overbee Apartments. Commissioner Garner advised him to talk with Scottie Hayes and make sure the sign would comply with zoning regulations and the mayor said then to go ahead with his project. Mayor Holt said it was a good idea and thanked Mr. Creech for suggesting it. Mr. Creech said he would plan to put up the sign on Saturday, June 11.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENT CONCERNING SOLAR FARMS**

The mayor next opened a required public hearing on a possible amendment to the Zoning Ordinance concerning solar farms, said hearing having been duly advertised on April 27 and May 4 in *The Kenly News*. Mayor Holt pointed out that the Zoning Ordinance does not currently address solar farms, or wind farms, so they would not be allowed. He said the Planning Board had reviewed the issue and offered their recommendation that neither solar farms nor wind farms be allowed in the city limits or the town's ETJ. He asked if there were any further comments on the issue. Commissioner Garner questioned why they should not be allowed in the ETJ. Terry Rains, a Planning Board member, said the farms are just a bad idea and are not good for the environment. The mayor said he could see how solar farm development could be a negative idea to neighboring properties. The board then voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

*MOTION:* Pittman  
*SECOND:* Anderson  
*VOTE:* unanimous

Mayor Holt felt no further action would be necessary, since the farms are not an allowable use in the ordinance currently. Frank Wood advised that they could vote to continue to not allow the development of solar farms or wind farms in the city limits or the ETJ area, and the board agreed unanimously.

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

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

SENIORS: Mayor Holt said the PL Seniors met yesterday and had a good meeting with Grover Godwin and Rusty Jones giving a presentation on the history of the Civil War and its effects on the Pine Level area.

## **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Everything okay; men worked on water leak on N. Capps Street.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports underway. Registration coming up for football, cheering, and fall soccer. Field #3 needs some way to keep people from driving their vehicles back there, and the signs are needed on Crescent Street to stop people from parking on the sides of the street. Mayor asked about closing off the street entirely for recreation events. Chuck Hardison, who resides near the park, said he would have no problem with the town closing off Crescent Street. Mayor

Holt suggested that Commissioner Anderson, the police chief and recreation coordinator get together and look at the problems and come up with a solution. Scottie Hayes asked about the celebration for July Fourth, since no one is available to provide a fireworks show on Monday, July Fourth. He said the second, third or fifth of July would be alternatives, but he felt Saturday, July 2 would be best. The board voted to hold the celebration on Saturday, July 2, 2016, and the motion passed on the following vote:

*MOTION:* Baker

*SECOND:* Anderson

*VOTE:* yes – Commissioners Anderson and Baker, and Mayor Holt  
no – Commissioners Garner and Pittman

Frank Wood commented that the clerk sent him a sample ordinance to regulate the parking on Crescent Street, but he wanted to add a section on penalties. He said the town could go ahead and put up the signs for No Parking on Crescent Street. Commissioner Garner asked about the speed on Country Store Road in the area of the city limits. Mayor Holt felt the state regulations controlled that speed, and Commissioner Pittman said the speed limit sign on Blanche Street is currently lying down beside the road.

*WATER/SEWER:* Commissioner Pittman. He recognized that Ray Stuckey was at the meeting, he was glad to see him here tonight, after Mr. Stuckey has been out sick since the end of March. Dan Simmons explained that they met with RDA representatives about the town's proposed sewer project. He said the good news was the fact that they have plenty of money to loan at 2 1/4% for 40 years, but they want the town to expand their project, over the original \$200,000 amount. He said the town could replace some aging water lines, and rehab the eastside sewer station, and have a project that will cost over one million dollars. He suggested that he, Gene Cobb, Ray Stuckey and the mayor meet and decide on what projects to pursue. He said they could then modify their PER, at an additional cost to the town, and get it in to the state after October 1, 2016, since grant money is not allocated until they have run out of money. He said the town's water rates are too low to qualify for grant money, but the sewer rates should be approved. Commissioner Pittman agreed the project is needed; Dan Simmons said the sewer system is 40 years old and the water system is already 60 years old. The board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Simmons' proposal.

*MOTION:* Garner

*SECOND:* Anderson

*VOTE:* unanimous

*FINANCE:* Mayor Holt said the clerk has completed a balanced budget, and sent it to him. He said he would forward it to the commissioners for their review and the board could hold a hearing in June and work more on it at the June meeting, if necessary. The clerk also advised the board that she has been working with the towns of Four Oaks and Princeton to submit RFP's to local accountants, since Keith Peedin, the town's long standing auditor, is planning to retire. She felt they should have a proposal to present at the June meeting for the 2015-2016 audit.

#### **ORDINANCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTRATION**

The board then looked at the business registration ordinance, which Town Attorney Frank Wood provided in April for the board's consideration. Mr. Wood said he fine-tuned the ordinance and it should be ready for board approval. The board then voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance, effective as of July 1, 2016. A copy of the ordinance is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

*MOTION TO ADOPT:* Pittman

*SECOND:* Baker

*VOTE:* unanimous

#### **OVERTIME FOR PREVIOUSLY EXEMPT EMPLOYEES**

Town Attorney Frank Wood advised that the final rules concerning overtime pay have not been published yet, and he was unsure when that might happen. He said that under the old laws, the salary cut-off was around \$23,000 for an employee to be declared exempt from overtime pay, but the new law would move the salary up to about \$50,000. He said an employer would have to pay overtime at time and one/half for anything over forty hours, or provide comp time at time and one/half. The police chief said that would not be a change for the police department, because they already do comp time at one and one/half. Mr. Wood felt that there would be time for employers to make plans to come into compliance with whatever new ruling might be decided upon. Mayor Holt said that in the meantime, everything would stay as is, because the law has not actually changed yet. Mr. Wood said he would certainly notify the town if he sees that anything new has been approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Pittman reminded the board members that June 8th will be Town Hall Day, and Clayton is hosting the Johnston County groups for a supper meal. He also said that Clayton would be hosting the Ethics Training Seminar for board members at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18th.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:57 p.m. the board entered closed session to discuss personnel matters, with all board members and the town attorney in attendance. Regular session was re-entered at 8:20 p.m. and the board announced no action taken.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

**TOWN CLERK**

---

**MAYOR**