



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2019
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 Monday, August 12, 2019 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Police Chief Ashley Woodard, Parks and Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt asked Commissioner Baker to give the invocation and Terry Rains to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting. The mayor gave a special welcome to Dr. Bill Radford, who filed to run in November for a position on the town board, and he wished him good luck with his campaign.

AGENDA

MOTION TO ADOPT: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

MINUTES: 07-08-19

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PLANNING BOARD: Terry Rains said the Planning Board has been inactive.

SENIORS GROUP: Will meet this Wednesday. Commissioner Pittman said the town is responsible for lunch this month, and the plan is to have pizza and ice cream sandwiches. Asked that Dwight Sorrells be remembered in prayer, as he had a stroke yesterday.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Dealing with aging infrastructure. Dan Simmons said they should have a response from USDA next week on the water/sewer project and things are moving forward.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Placed order for new garbage truck. No paving going on right now. Mayor said Rose Stuckey, Ray's wife, had hip surgery a few weeks back, and that Ken Wall has a new baby boy.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson-Miller asked Scottie Hayes to report. He said football practice has begun and games should start after Labor Day. Cheering practice should start next week, also trying to start a fall baseball program.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. New police cars on order, Chief Woodard said they are on a "fast track." Chief Woodard and Scottie Hayes are going out once a week and sending letters for offenses. Some break-ins have occurred, but have been solved quickly. Commissioner Pittman said school will soon start back, so everyone should look out for speeding cars. Commissioner Garner said the police have been studying speeding on Blanche Street and they are looking at a change in the speed limit.

FIRE DEPT: Greg Johnson reported that the Fire Dept. will hold their Reverse Drawing in November. Mayor Holt asked what the dept.'s membership is now. Mr. Johnson said it was around twenty-five members.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Will Barham reported that he would discuss some issues with the board later in the meeting in closed session.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None.

SPECIAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Holt recognized Lt. Andy C. Lee for five years full-time employment with the police department, since 2014. He said he worked part-time five years prior to going full-time. He presented him with a Certificate of Achievement and a gift card from the town. Mayor Holt commended Lt. Lee and thanked him for everything he has done for the town. Commissioner Garner also thanked Alan Lee, who is now Detective Lee. He said that he also works hard and does a great job, and that both officers are very deserving. Chief Woodard added that both officers are doing a great job. Commissioner Garner said Curt Lee came in Saturday night to help out with an incident, when he was off-duty. Commissioner Garner said he would put Pine Level Police Dept. up against any other department in the county. Everyone gave them an appreciative round of applause.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt said he planned to recognize Mr. Nester McClain this Wednesday at the Seniors Meeting for his past service to the town. Mr. McClain is now 91 years old and has served on the Planning Board since he was 75. The mayor showed a sign that he had printed, to name the sidewalk down South Peedin Avenue as the "Nester McClain Walkway." He said Mr. Nester was instrumental in getting the sidewalk in that area. He said for many years, Mr. Nester had attended all the town meetings and kept on top of things taking place. He also pointed out that a plaque was placed on the back of the corner sign on Hwy. 70-A, in memory of Jim and Omega Starling, whose family donated the land for the brick sign.

Dan Simmons informed the board that Engineer Gene Cobb, who will turn 77 years old in December, retired at the end of July. Everyone wished Mr. Cobb well as he enjoys retirement.

CLOSED SESSION

The board then entered a closed session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3), to consult with the town attorney.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Regular session resumed and the board considered a resolution provided by Town Attorney Will Barham, which would authorize and ratify nuisance abatement action in the case of the C. E. Clayton property at 116 S. Fitzgerald Street. The mayor said that prior to initiating any legal action, the board would need to take recordable action beforehand. A motion was made by Commissioner Pittman to move forward with the abatement and to adopt the resolution pertaining to the Clayton property. Commissioner Baker voiced a second and discussion followed. Will Barham pointed out that with the case in the City of Albemarle that was invalidated, the town had not taken specific action on the matter. Mayor Holt said Cindy Huntsberry, Mr. Clayton's daughter, had been notified about the problem and given ten days to clear up the matter. Commissioner Garner said he wanted to know every penny that is charged to the town for legal fees, if the case moves forward. Mr. Barham said that would be no problem, but the town has now done what needs to be done in order to pursue the case. The board followed with an affirmative vote on the Resolution Authorizing and Ratifying Nuisance Abatement Action, a copy of which is included with and herewith made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: for- Pittman, Baker, Anderson-Miller, Holt
against - Garner

Mr. Barham said the board could now direct him on how to proceed with the Clayton property. He said the town must address such issues going forward, on a case by case basis, and they were just doing what the Court of Appeals said was necessary. Mayor Holt said Mr. Barham could now contact Cindy Huntsberry and let her know what action the town approved and that legal action could be pending. Mr. Barham said the board had now given him all the authority he needed to pursue legal action, if that was indeed necessary. Mayor Holt said the town is now being pro-active with such issues, and they now know what steps must be followed. Commissioner Anderson-Miller said that if the guy on Hwy. 70-A stops work on his property, then next month they could adopt a resolution for him.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to address, the meeting came to an end at 7:51 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR