



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 12, 2012
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, April 12, 2012 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER ANTHONY GUDAC
 x COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Superintendent Ray Stuckey and Jeff Crocker, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and then asked Commissioner Anderson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The mayor welcomed all who were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDITIONS: New business – emergency notification (PP)

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 03-08-12

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Next, the mayor said he wanted to recognize two special happenings. First of all, he recognized Commissioner Pittman. Mayor Holt said that Commissioner Pittman was the latest inductee into Johnston County's Athletic Hall of Fame, due to his contributions as both an athlete and a coach. Everyone honored Commissioner Pittman with a round of applause. Then the mayor recognized Jeff Crocker, who will reach his seventeenth anniversary, having been hired by the town on April 27, 1995. Mayor Holt thanked Jeff for his service with the town and said he has been a valuable part of the town's growth over the past 17 years. Commissioner Pittman said that Jeff was one of the reasons that Pine Level stayed so clean, due to his efforts in the public works department. Mayor Holt said it was work done "behind the scenes," and it was often a thankless job, but the town appreciated his many years of service. Everyone then recognized Jeff with a round of applause, as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The mayor then asked if anyone wished to offer public comment on non-agenda items. Sal Navarro complained about a problem with Time Warner cable service. He said they have a monopoly in town, since they have a franchise from the town to provide cable service. He asked why do they keep getting their franchise renewed, since no other cable companies can come into town and provide service. Mr. Navarro said he had contacted all of the cable providers, but none of them would offer service to him. Mayor Holt said the town does have a franchise agreement with Time Warner and they own the above ground cable equipment in town, but there are probably other options available. Commissioner Gudac said he ran into the same issue, but that the franchise is not the reason that other companies will not service Pine Level, they just don't want to spend the money to put in the infrastructure, since they would not recoup their investment. He said AT&T told him they would not invest the money in Pine Level, but they now have the ability to provide service through phone lines and get around the franchise. Mayor Holt suggested that the town attorney look into the matter and advise the town. Commissioner Gudac said that cables would have to be fiber optic and none of the companies would spend that kind of money, so Time Warner essentially does have a monopoly in Pine Level. He also explained that Century Link serves the Smithfield exchange and they won't service Pine Level, since it is served mostly by AT&T. Mayor Holt said the town has not obligated itself to anything that would prohibit other cable service in town and he directed Frank Wood to look into the matter on behalf of the town.

Nester McClain commented that the curbing project on Peedin Avenue is looking good and he is excited to see the progress being made.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENIORS: Senior group on trip to Savannah, GA. Commissioner Pittman talked with Janice White about upcoming events for seniors, maybe even participating with Council on Aging. Board members will feed seniors group soon, possibly in July.

PLANNING BOARD: Approved variance last month for Ronald Peedin.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Everything okay. Dan Simmons said a preconstruction conference would be held next Wednesday on the filter replacement project. New filter tank is on order. Commissioner Gudac reported that sewer spill was averted by quick action from town employees, saving a problem with sewer spillage.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports getting underway. Working on July Fourth plans as well. Reese'S Cup tournament this weekend at park. Working on different projects at park, looking at possible scout projects. New park sign looks excellent. Recognized the late Randy Pope for his contribution to Pine Level recreation. Mayor made note of letter from citizen who was displeased with conditions of the park and fire ant problem. Mayor said he would respond to the letter. Approved

appointment of Carse Lucas to the Pine Level Recreation Committee; resolution of appointment included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Anderson

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. Everything okay. Urged citizens to put out yard debris earlier in the week, and not put it out on Friday and think it will be picked up Friday afternoon.

POLICE: chief Sparks. Had incident at The Heritage Bank; working with FBI to resolve. Hope to contact person who posted on WRAL that they saw the person(s) who attempted to break into the bank.

FIRE DEPT: President Greg Johnson said Fireman's Day is coming up on May 12th and they will do things a little differently this year. Plan to have a 5K run that day and sell raffle tickets for \$20 each, with many different prizes to be given away. Ticket will provide you with food and drink that day. Will purchase new fire engine and expect delivery in the near future. Ladies Auxiliary will have a breakfast sale on Fireman's Day and flower sale.

FINANCE: Mayor Holt. Budget amendments to 2011-2012 budget to catch expenses up to date. Approved amendments as presented; a copy is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Gudac

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Mayor reported budget work underway already. Ray Stuckey reported that the public works department is changing out water services for the customers on South Peedin Avenue, since the DOT is already tearing up their front yards with the curbing project. Changing them over to the newer 8" line and getting them off the smaller, original galvanized line.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Commissioner Pittman asked about the possibility of notifying businesses and the school if emergency situations arise, like the recent, attempted bank robbery. Mayor Holt said a "call and post" might be a good idea. He suggested that someone look into that possibility and see what would be involved. He said that was a good way to communicate with a large segment of people, although he was not aware of the possible charges that might be involved. Ray Stuckey said the Town of Princeton is utilizing that method, although they recently had a problem and people in Pine Level were contacted by the Princeton messaging system. Mayor Holt said a list could be generated from the people who call and request to be placed on such a notification list. It was noted that several of the local churches utilize that type of system to distribute information. Mayor Holt said he could check with Berry Godwin on the system used at the Baptist church.

OLD TOWN HALL

The mayor also noted that the sale of the old town hall to Joyce Jenkins has fallen through, since she has elected not to pursue the expansion of her business. He asked what would be the pleasure of the board concerning the old building, to re-advertise it for sale or what. Mayor Holt said it would be nice to see it used as a library or something along those lines, and not sold. He suggested setting up a committee to look into that possibility; Commissioner Pittman said he would volunteer to work on that committee. Mayor Holt said Frank Wood could also be researching options for selling the building in case an alternate use fell through.

FRANK H. GEORGE ENDOWMENT

Mayor Holt then discussed the Frank H. George Endowment that was set up last year to fund appearance improvement projects in town. He said funds would be available for beautification projects and that applications could be submitted at the town hall by July 1st, from individuals, groups, churches, civic clubs, the town or whomever. He said the town needs to be sure the money gets

spent on projects that will benefit the town. He said that the mayor is authorized to make the decision on who gets the funds since there is not an official appearance committee. He said that he would like to see a nice sign constructed on the corner at Peedin Avenue and US 70-A Highway, so informative messages could be displayed. He suggested that a civic group might want to take on that project and apply for the funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Anderson asked if the town has any recourse to make customers take in their garbage carts from beside the street, after the town has already picked up garbage. Commissioner Pittman said there is no ordinance to make people do that.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt read from a pamphlet created by the Pine Level Lions Club in 1964. He said the population at that time was 833 and the town was governed by a mayor and four-member board of commissioners. He said the tax rate was \$1.15 and the tax base was \$1,462,000. The police had one full-time officer and two part-time officers and a 38-member fire department provided fire protection for the town.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holt said the next board meeting would fall on Thursday, May 10th. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Gudac

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR