

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2015**

The regularly scheduled council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Megan Pulsts at 7:33 PM. Present were Mayor Pro-Tem Pulsts, Council members Erika Brown, George Chidi, Lynn Ehrlicher, and Mike Stuckey. Also present were Chief Sarai Y'hudah-Green and City Administrator Valerie Caldwell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS:

Brown announces she was conducting a workshop for the public on how to appeal your tax appraisal.

Pulsts announced the Town Hall meeting to discuss revisions to the Zoning Code was set for June 23rd beginning at 7:00 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve with removal of Annexation Study and Tiny House presentations and the addition of Discussion of Permits for Public Space Use was made by Stuckey, seconded by Brown and approved 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Suzanne Zarus 4553 Park Drive, stated she felt the signage at the lake informing people of the water quality was “poor public policy.” She stated the lake should be closed if the fecal coliform counts was unsafe for swimming.

John Weeks, 534 Pine Drive, stated he was not sure the majority of people currently using the lake could read the sign, citing small children and people from other countries. He stated he felt it was a liability for the City.

Stuckey verified with Caldwell that the signage had been approved by the City attorney.

Pulsts stated that that Council had previously decided to just post the test results and allow swimmers to make their own decision. She also stated the city is open to putting up signs in other languages.

Suzanne Zarus stated that just because the city attorney advises (the signs are adequate) does not make it right. She again stated the lake should be closed when the e-coli count is high.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved 4-0 upon motion by Brown, second by Chidi.

- Items approved:

- Minutes of May 11, 2015 and May 26, 2015 Council meetings;
- Adoption of Resolution No. 07-2015 – Budget Amendment
- Approval of Reorganization of Second Saturday

DISCUSSION OF GARAGES AND CARPORTS

There was no discussion at this time.

DISCUSSION OF BODY CAMERAS

At the request of Chidi, this item was moved to after the discussion of the millage rate.

DISCUSSION OF MILLAGE RATE

Pulsts stated that the tax digest had increased overall by 27% from the previous year, based in large part by the reassessment of all properties in Pine Lake. Chidi disagreed, stating he believed it to be a 40% increase. Pulsts continued stating that this increase would allow the city to reduce the millage rate down from 28.11 mills to 21.402 mills. This represents an overall reduction of 6.708 mills.

Brown stated that appraisals are set by the County; not Pine Lake.

Melanie Hammet, 648 Laurel, the stated revenue projections could be changed by the number of appeals that were successful. Pulsts replied that since the Tax Assessor had reassessed all properties in Pine Lake, chances were the number of successful appeals would be minimal. She also stated that would be taken into consideration when the rate was set.

Buffy Davis, 481 Oak, asked what formula the county utilized. She stated there was a disparity between newer homes and older homes that as not reflective of market values.

It was stated that Brown and Chidi were putting together a list of the 460 taxable parcels in Town. Chidi stated that tax revenues were dependent upon residential properties and that the City needed to annex along Rockbridge Road. He further stated that the County was proposing a reduction in county taxes for residents in unincorporated areas, but an increase for those residing in municipalities.

The public hearing on the Millage Rate is scheduled for June 30, 2015 beginning at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse. The vote to set the rate will take place at the Council meeting on June 30, beginning at 7:30 pm.

PERMITS FOR USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

Brown pointed out that the camp began before the permit was issued. She urged changing of the application to require submission of the complete application package and full payment at least 30 days prior to the beginning of camp so as to allow ample time for review and permit issuance before the start of camp. She also pointed out that the city had incurred legal expenses of \$525 to date related to camp, however the permit revenue was only \$1,800. Pulsts pointed out that this was a relatively new process. Johannaber stated that there had been extenuating circumstances in that she had been waiting for the Mayor to find affordable

insurance, which was required as part of the application process. It was established that fees were due as follows: 25% being due upon permit approval; 50% at the start of the event and the remaining 25% two weeks before the end of the event. She stated the 25% had been paid when [conditionally] approved, and the remainder had been paid that day, and therefore was not late with the fees. Brown stated the fees were to be paid before the camp began and the permit issued. Johannaber stated the requirement to have background checks for youth counselors was proving to be very cumbersome and questioned the necessity. It was explained by that this was a city requirement based upon advice of the city attorney. Johannaber stated the proposed changes outlined above were certainly no problem and that in the future she could have everything submitted 30 days before camp was projected to begin. She stated she was looking forward to next year, and just asked for forgiveness.

At that point, the meeting transitioned to work session status.

DISCUSSION OF BODY CAMERAS

Chief Green reported holding off on the purchase as it may be possible to participate in a multi-agency purchase once the next generation is introduced. She handed out a draft policy document. Discussion ensued regarding repercussions for failure to note malfunctioning equipment. Pulsts stated that such failures should be noted in writing and on daily log during the shift. Chidi discussed the need for consequences for officers who misuse the body cameras. Brown stated that discipline should be in the SOP. Chidi stated he wanted to see misuse as a cause for termination. Ehrlicher questioned if purchase of dash cameras was still being considered in conjunction with the body cameras. It was the consensus that both types are being considered for purchase. Also discussed was whether or not the quote included data storage. Stuckey stated he wanted to know exactly how much storage space the city was being quoted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TAB – Karen Bernheimer reported the Board had not met in a long time.

ARB – Pulsts reported the Board is continuing review of the Code.

Pulsts introduced for discussion the various complaints received surrounding the restroom facilities at the Beach House. It was reported that articles of clothing were left on the floor, soap and rolls of paper products stuffed into the toilet causing clogs and flooding for the city workers to clean up. It was suggested that the restroom currently open to the public be locked and used by individuals renting the facility and that the city provide a port-a-john for use by those at the beach. Brown stated the city was attempt to market for corporate rentals and felt a port-a-john would be a deterrent. She suggested putting up a sign indicating “no public bathrooms.” Resident John Weeks suggested simply removing the toilet paper and soap. Christine Slocomb stated the city did not experience this problem when park cards were issued. Pulsts stated that [park cards] were not legal. Brown disagreed. Following a lengthy discussion, Brown made a motion that the public restroom be locked and a sign be placed on the door indicating no public bathrooms were available. The motion was seconded by Ehrlicher and approved with Chidi voting in opposition.

Resident Kerri Loomis stated that action was “totally lame.”

David Brachman stated that the Eco Camp (utilizing the Beach House) need to be made aware of the action and instructed not to let people utilize the restrooms.

Melanie Hammet stated that Eva Sotus had been required to reimburse the City for monies expended to rectify deficiencies for unauthorized work to the Beach House. She then stated Pine Lake City Arts, LLC should be requested to reimburse the City for legal fees paid out to represent the City in relation to camp costs.

Christine Slocomb asked what the opposition to park cards was. Brown and Ehrlicher stated they had no opposition. Chidi stated he had strong opposition. Stuckey stated he was ambivalent but would like to hear discussion on the issue.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Brown stated she would be more in favor of a beach pass, whereby people paid a fee to utilize the amenity. She continued that the city did not have a budget to hire a full time beach manager. Chidi responded to Ms. Slocomb that the problem was legal liabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm upon motion by Chidi, and second by Stuckey.

Valerie Caldwell
City Administrator