

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2023**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Aidan Aungst
Ron Aungst
Earl Kreiser
Aimmee Reilly
Lee Strubhar

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice President
Wade Gettle
Elaine Holley
Devin Lymaster
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/ Treasurer
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

ABSENT:

Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Skip Butler

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present except Leonard Clark and Skip Butler. A quorum was established.

○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):

- **Ron/ Aidan Aungst:** R. Aungst along with his grandson Aidan Aungst presented donations for the Christmas Lights and Police Department.
- **NEFD-Lee Strubhar:** L. Strubhar read over NEFD's monthly report. L. Strubhar stated the NEFD Social Club will be shutting down at the end of the year.

○ SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- **Wideawake Street/ Truck Signage:** Solicitor Hobbs discussed different options to alleviate the damage from the tractor trailers delivering to Guilford Mills. Council further discussed. Leory Bates motioned to add signage and amend the streets ordinance not to allow left hand turn onto Wideawake Street from Oak Grove Road and no right hand turn onto Oak Grove Road from Wideawake Street, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.

○ SCHEDULED VISITORS:

- **HH&L:** None.

○ MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Sgt. Mozurkevich read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed Sgt. Mozurkevich will be resigning in the near future.
- Mayor Shiffer stated the VFW recognized Chief Trotter with Outstanding Service Award on Veteran's Day.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the rental inspections and council further discussed. Secretary Dyer will check with Marty Sowers on two properties.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

○ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Resolution # 09-23 Tax Collector:** Leroy Bates motioned to approve Resolution #09-23 appointing Katie Burke as the Tax Collector effective January 1, 2024, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Resolution #08-23 Cleaning Staff:** Wade Gettle motioned to approve Resolution #08-23 appointing Chelesa Klinger as the cleaning staff for the Pine Grove Borough Office Building at \$90.00/ weekly including supplies, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

○ **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.**

○ **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Budget Meeting, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Resolution #07-23:** Leroy Bates motioned to approve Resolution #07-23 with no tax increase for the 2024, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **Resolution # 06-23:** Leroy Bates motioned to approve Resolution #06-23 increasing the residential rates \$20.00 per quarter and commercial rates with a 20% increase, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **2024 General-Water Fund Budget:** Leroy Bates motioned to adopt the 2024 General & Water Fund Budget, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

○ **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Streets & Water Report:** Reports are in everyone's file.

- **Strom Drain-Clean out:** E. Kreiser wanted to let council know they will be renting a piece of equipment to clean out the ditch in the back parking lot of the VFW. E. Kreiser stated our backhoe would sink. E. Kreiser stated the cost will be \$600.00 for the rental.
- **Compost site:** E. Kreiser stated he received a quote of \$6,000.00 for the compost site removal. Council further discussed. No further action taken at this time.
- **Emergency Snow Removal Bid:** President Fickinger stated one bid was received for the Emergency Snow Removal Bid. Leroy Bates made a motion to award the bid to Arthur "Pat" Aungst subject to Solicitor Hobbs review, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by council.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
 - **Conservation Easement:** Leroy Bates motioned to decline The Nature Conservancy proposal for the conservation easement, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - **2024 Pool Season:** Leroy Bates motioned to allow Casey to start reaching out to previous staff for the 2024 Pool Season, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Re-Organization Meeting:** Secretary Dyer wanted to remind council of the Re-Organization Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
- **Comcast Agreement:** Secretary Dyer wanted to remind council the franchise agreement with Comcast expires July 2024.
- **Utilities-Update:** Secretary Dyer wanted to let council know that she has been working with Comcast and AT&T to reduce monthly costs.
- **Facebook:** Secretary Dyer discussed bringing back Facebook for Pine Grove Borough with restrictions on the page. Wade Gettle motioned to create a new Facebook page with restrictions, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** None.

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.



 Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer