

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pinehurst was held on March 10, 2020 at 6:00p.m. in the City Hall. A quorum having been established, Mayor Dan Mohon called the meeting to order with the following council members present: Sarah McClendon, T.W. Permenter, John Zerko, and Cynthia Adams. Councilman J. Michael Shahan was absent. The following business was transacted.

On a motion made by Councilman T.W. Permenter and seconded by Councilman John Zerko, council members unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of February 11, 2020.

At this time, council members reviewed the budgeted expenditures for January 2020. City Secretary Debbie Cormier began by stating that there were no capital outlays in January 2020. Ms. Cormier noted that the year-to-date revenues of the General Fund were approximately \$25,000 less than the prior year. She explained that the shortfall was due to less property taxes received in January 2020 than January 2019. She told council members that the good news was that the City received more than \$304,000 in property tax revenues in February 2020 and stated that the property tax revenues would be on the positive side for the February report. She continued by noting that the Garbage Fund revenues were ahead of the prior year-to-date by almost \$7,000. She advised that, with grant funds removed from the equation, the Water/Sewer Fund revenues were approximately \$21,000 behind the previous year. She informed that total revenues for January 2020 were behind January 2019 by about \$47,000. When comparing year-to-date actual revenues versus year-to-date actual expenditures, Ms. Cormier stated that expenditures exceeded revenues in the General Fund by about \$52,000. However, she noted that expenditures had exceeded revenues by more than \$160,000 in December and said that things were headed in the right direction. She informed that revenues exceeded expenditures in the Garbage Fund by almost \$18,000. She noted that expenditures exceeded revenues in the Water/Sewer Fund by approximately \$52,000. Overall, she advised that expenditures exceeded revenues by about \$59,000 but stated that the bottom line in December had been a deficit of \$164,000, so things were looking better. In summary, Ms. Cormier advised that December 2019 reserves were 6.09 months and January 2020 reserves were 6.27 months. There were no questions from council members regarding this report.

No one signed up to address the Council under the Citizen Comments section of this agenda.

Under the Department Head Reports section of this agenda, Water/Wastewater Field Supervisor Charles Spain reported that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) had performed a water inspection recently and the department aced the inspection. He noted that this was the first problem free inspection in many years. He stated that the Water/Wastewater employees were getting ready for the grant funds to replace sewer lines and upgrade the sewer plant.

Public Works Director John Toney reported that his crews were continuing with digging ditches to relieve drainage issues throughout the City. He stated that Street Department employees would be patching roads this week. He noted that they did not want to spend a lot of money on

the roads at present because the \$6.8 million in grant funds would allow the City to resurface 20 to 30 streets throughout the City. He advised that two fans were donated to the animal shelter and had been installed. Mr. Toney noted that safety light bars had been installed on all of the Operations and Maintenance vehicles.

Fire Chief Shon Branham reported that five volunteers would be starting the Firefighter II program soon. He advised that he was attempting to obtain a grant from the Texas Forestry Service to purchase training materials. Chief Branham informed that the fire department had pulled the permit for construction of its classroom. He explained that the actual construction had been postponed due to a delay in delivery of the materials and illness of fire department personnel. He concluded by saying that there were 46 calls in January and 39 calls in February.

Police Chief Fred Hanauer reported that Fleet Services Manager Greg May had replaced the power steering pump on the Armored Humvee. He stated that property crimes had increased in February with a total of five burglaries of a habitation. Overall, he advised that there were 29 offenses report in February. He reported that there were 352 total calls in February.

Code Enforcement Officer Harry Vine reported that his department had issued 227 permits for total revenue of \$9,361.85 over the last twelve months. He stated that he had canvassed the City and was in the process of sending out junk vehicle notifications. Mr. Vine informed that he was attempting to gain compliance throughout the City with the address numbers ordinance. He stated that address numbers needed to be 4 inches high and in a contrasting color. He advised that compliance with this ordinance would help emergency services personnel find addresses quickly. Mr. Vine explained that he was working on a Coronavirus protocol for the City employees. He reported that Tacos La Shula would be moving into the former Casa Bella location on West Park Avenue. He noted that another new business, Bloombox & More, had recently opened at 2600 MLK Jr. Drive. He informed that the business sold plants, wrought-iron, jelly, and many more items. He stated that this business was owned by one of the City employees, Ray Smith and his wife Nancy. Mr. Vine advised that he was optimistic regarding property acquisition within Pinehurst city limits. He commented that he had received numerous calls in the last several weeks for residential and business property.

At 6:36 p.m., Mayor Mohon opened a public hearing on condemnation of property located at 3706 Mockingbird Street, owned by Larry Larkin. City Attorney Tommy Gunn asked questions of Code Enforcement/Building Official Harry Vine. Mr. Gunn asked Mr. Vine to state his name and official title; verify the address of the property in question and; verify the owner of record of this property. Mr. Vine advised that Larry Larkin was listed with the Orange County Appraisal District as the owner of the property. He stated that Mr. Larkin was deceased. Consequently, Mr. Vine sent condemnation and public hearing notification letters, via certified mail and regular mail, to Mr. Larkin's court appointed representative, Attorney Paul Fukuda. Mr. Vine advised that this property had been vacant for at least four to five years. He informed that the property had extensive termite damage. He read a list of eleven items that would need attention in order to rehabilitate the property. He stated that it would not be worth putting \$40,000 into a property that could be sold for only \$30,000. He informed that he obtained three demolition bids, the lowest of which was \$5,500 to demolish and remove the slab. He stated that the highest bid was

\$11,000. Mr. Vine recommended condemnation and demolition of the property via the lowest bidder. Mayor Mohon closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.

Regarding the discussion and possible action on condemnation of the property located at 3706 Mockingbird Street, owned by Larry Larkin, and approval of the corresponding Resolution, City Attorney Tommy Gunn read the Resolution aloud and in its entirety. Mr. Gunn noted that the property would be demolished by C&C Works, Inc. within 30 days. On a motion made by Councilman T.W. Permenter and seconded by Councilwoman Cynthia Adams, council members unanimously approved the condemnation and demolition of this property.

At 6:46 p.m., Mayor Mohon opened a public hearing on the condemnation of property located at 3428 Heron, owned by Larry Larkin. City Attorney Tommy Gunn again asked questions of Code Enforcement/Building Official Harry Vine. Mr. Gunn asked Mr. Vine to state his name and official title; verify the address of the property in question and; verify the owner of record of this property. Mr. Vine advised that Larry Larkin was listed with the Orange County Appraisal District as the owner of the property. He stated that Mr. Larkin was deceased. Consequently, Mr. Vine sent condemnation and public hearing notification letters, via certified mail and regular mail, to Mr. Larkin's court appointed representative, Attorney Paul Fukuda. Mr. Vine stated that this property was no longer considered salvageable. He advised that the rehabilitation list for this property included the same eleven items as the previous structure. He noted that he had obtained bids for this property as well and the lowest bid was received from C&C Works, Inc. for \$4,000. Mr. Vine recommended condemnation and demolition of this structure. Mayor Mohon closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

Regarding the discussion and possible action on condemnation of the property located at 3428 Heron, owned by Larry Larkin, and approval of the corresponding Resolution, City Attorney Tommy Gunn read the Resolution aloud and in its entirety. Mr. Gunn noted that the property would be demolished by C&C Works, Inc. within 30 days. On a motion made by Councilwoman Sarah McClendon and seconded by Councilman T.W. Permenter, council members unanimously approved the condemnation and demolition of this property.

On consideration of canceling the May 2, 2020 SPECIAL Election, City Secretary Debbie Cormier read the Certification of Unopposed Candidates by the City Secretary. Ms. Cormier explained that only the SPECIAL Election could be canceled. City Attorney Tommy Gunn read the corresponding Ordinance aloud and in its entirety. On a motion made by Councilman T.W. Permenter and seconded by Councilwoman Sarah McClendon, council members unanimously voted to cancel the SPECIAL election and approve the corresponding Ordinance declaring the unopposed candidate, J. Michael Shahan, elected to office.

On consideration of approving an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitoes within the limits of the City of Pinehurst, Texas, Councilwoman Cynthia Adams made a motion to approve the waiver. Councilman T.W. Permenter seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Under the Announcements, Comments, and Requests from Council section of this agenda, City Administrator Robbie Hood noted that the City would join forces with Sabine Federal Credit Union (SFCU) to host a Shred It & Forget It event. He advised that the event would be held on April 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. until noon in the SFCU parking lot. Mr. Hood announced that the City of Pinehurst would be conducting its Annual Spring Cleanup on April 25, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until noon in the future HEB parking lot. Mr. Hood advised that the City of Orange would be hosting the TML Region 16 Quarterly meeting on April 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lamar State College-Orange Shahan Center. He requested that council members RSVP by March 17, 2020. Mr. Hood announced that citizens now had the ability to go online to the City's website and pay utility bills via credit card or pay by credit card in person. He noted that the link on the City's website would take you to Xpress Pay and you could access your account by putting in your account number or by entering your last name and address. He advised that a convenience fee of 2.85% plus \$0.40 would be charged to the credit card. Lastly, Mr. Hood informed that City personnel had met with Waxman & Associates and our General Land Office Grant Manager to kickoff the \$6.8 million grant. He stated that the City would have until April 2022 to complete the project. First, he commented that the Wastewater facility electrical control room would be built. Then, the sewer pipe bursting and replacement of sewer lines would take place. Lastly, the street resurfacing would be performed.

There being no further business to transact, Councilman T.W. Permenter made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Cynthia Adams seconded the motion and Mayor Mohon adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

/s/ Dan Mohon

Mayor

/s/ Debbie Cormier

City Secretary