

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pinehurst was held on April 9, 2024, at 6:00p.m. at Pinehurst City Hall Council Room. The following council members were present: Sarah McClendon, Cynthia Adams, J. Michael Shahan, Troy Pierce, and Greg Willis. Councilman Joey Vance was absent. Mayor Sarah McClendon called the meeting to order and established a quorum. Mayor Pro-Tem J. Michael Shahan gave the invocation followed by the reciting of the United States and Texas Pledges of Allegiance, led by Councilman Troy Pierce. The following business was transacted.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Cynthia Adams and seconded by Councilman Troy Pierce, council members unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Session held on March 12, 2024.

Council members reviewed the budgeted expenditures for February 2024. City Secretary Debbie Cormier began the financial report by noting that there were no capital outlays so far this fiscal year. She continued by saying that the General Fund year to date (YTD) revenues for 2024 exceeded the YTD revenues for 2023 by approximately \$168,000. She advised that the Garbage Fund YTD revenue for 2024 was running behind YTD revenue for 2023 by slightly more than \$6,500. She stated that this was due to more temporary dumpster rentals in 2023. Ms. Cormier reported that the Water & Sewer Fund YTD revenues for 2024 appeared to be almost \$359,000 less than 2023 YTD revenues; however, with grant funds and one-time events removed from both sides of the equation, she stated that 2024 YTD was behind 2023 YTD by only \$172. Overall, she noted that it appeared that 2024 YTD was less than 2023 YTD by almost \$185,000. With grant funds and one-time events removed, she stated that 2024 YTD exceeded 2023 YTD by almost \$140,000. Ms. Cormier went on to say that YTD revenues exceeded YTD expenditures in the General Fund by almost \$403,000. She advised that revenues exceeded expenditures in the Garbage Fund as well, by approximately \$21,000. Conversely, she stated that expenditures exceeded revenues in the Water & Sewer Fund by slightly more than \$70,000. Overall, she noted that YTD revenues exceeded YTD expenditures by almost \$353,000. In summary, Ms. Cormier informed council members that there were 7.21 months of cash reserves in January 2024 and 7.53 months of cash reserves in February 2024, or almost ¼ month increase. She stated that the increase was due to property tax revenue paid in January but not received until February. Council members had no questions or comments concerning this financial report.

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

City Administrator Jerry Hood reported in addition to the routine maintenance of mowing and digging ditches, crews had also been working to repair the headworks at the water/wastewater facility.

Regarding the discussion and possible action to purchase or lease fleet and police vehicles, City Administrator Jerry Hood explained that Enterprise Fleet Management (EFM) had ceased servicing any entity that did not lease at least twelve vehicles. He advised that Pinehurst leased only four vehicles. He stated that the city was not notified of this action but rather discovered it when he called to inquire about the current vehicles leases that were nearing expiration.

Mr. Hood explained that the current leases did not afford the city a lease-purchase option. However, after contacting the vice president of EFM, he was given a purchase option. He noted that the current leases did not end until June 30, but the vice president of EFM was giving the city the option to terminate the lease now. Mr. Hood advised that the city currently had about \$27,000 equity because of the terms of the program. He stated that the other option was to extend the current lease for one more 12-month term and pay approximately \$800 per vehicle, per month. He told council members that three of the vehicles would cost about \$31,000 each and one would cost about \$27,000 for a total of approximately \$120,000 if the city were to purchase all four vehicles. He explained that these vehicles were less than one year old and two of them had only 4,000 - 5,000 miles. He commented that the city would not be able to find this type of deal anywhere else. He noted that the current equity that the city had built up in these four vehicles could be used for the purchase of the vehicles. He stated that there were some decisions to be made. Mr. Hood advised that he did not feel that the city could find vehicles any cheaper by going through the BuyBoard Program. He explained that there were several options available for purchasing the vehicles. He said that ARPA funds could potentially be used for purchasing all or some of the vehicles. He noted that financing through First Financial Bank was also an option. He stated that the Council could choose to purchase two and finance two of the vehicles. Councilman Pierce asked if the city had explored lease options from other fleet leasing companies. Mr. Hood said that he had checked with three other companies, but all were weekly or monthly options and much more expensive. Mr. Hood told council members that he would explore financing options and evaluate available ARPA funds, then present his findings to Council for a final decision at the next meeting in May.

Regarding the discussion and possible action to repeal Ordinance No. 2006-03 & Amendment No. 2006-04 and replace with Ordinance No. 2024-03 for outdoor burning, City Administrator Jerry Hood stated that he felt it was better to simply repeal the original ordinance and subsequent amendment to bring clarity to this new ordinance. Mr. Hood explained that TCEQ took the stance that outdoor burning was illegal, but they allowed for some exceptions. Of the seven exceptions allowed by TCEQ, he advised that only three applied to the City of Pinehurst:

1. Recreational burning – fires for ceremonies, cooking, etc.
2. Land clearing
3. Firefighter training

Mr. Hood noted that he used the same language in the new ordinance as was used by TCEQ. He stated that there were very few changes in the new ordinance. He informed council members that Section 3 – Permits had changed to clarify that permits were needed for land clearing only. He explained in cases where standby of a fire engine was necessary, due to a lack of water source, there would be an additional fee. Mr. Hood advised that there were a few changes to Section 4 - Restrictions, which included hours and wind speed changes. He noted that a ‘*Specific*’ category was added to the Section 4 – Restrictions. On a motion made by Councilman Troy Pierce and seconded by Councilman Greg Willis, council members unanimously voted to repeal Ordinance No. 2006-03 & Amendment No. 2006-04 and replace them with Ordinance No. 2024-03.

Concerning the appointment of 2024 Police Negotiation team members, Councilman Greg Willis and Councilman Troy Pierce volunteered to serve.

On consideration of approving a Local Option Residence Homestead Exemption, a 65 or Older Exemption, and a Disabled Exemption for the 2023 tax year, City Secretary Debbie Cormier noted that the city offered the maximum \$20,000 on homestead exemptions. Ms. Cormier advised that Pinehurst offered \$10,000 for both 65 or older and for disabled exemptions. She stated that amount was not the largest offered by the various taxing entities in the area, but it was also not the smallest. She explained that it was appropriate for a city like Pinehurst with its population and tax base. Ms. Cormier recommended keeping all exemptions at the current amounts. On a motion made by Councilwoman Cynthia Adams and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem J. Michael Shahan, council members unanimously voted to maintain all current property tax exemptions at current amounts.

Under the Announcements, Comments, and Requests from Council section of this agenda, City Administrator Jerry Hood announced that the city-wide cleanup would be Saturday, April 13 at the old Sears location on MacArthur Drive from 8:00a.m. until noon.

There being no further business to transact, Mayor Sarah McClendon adjourned the meeting at 6:30p.m.

/s/ Debbie Cormier
City Secretary

/s/ Sarah McClendon
Mayor