

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pinehurst was held on April 11, 2023, at 6:00p.m. at Pinehurst City Hall Council Room. The following council members were present: Cynthia Adams, Sarah McClendon, J. Michael Shahan, Joey Vance, and Greg Willis. Councilman Troy Pierce was absent. Mayor Sarah McClendon called the meeting to order and established a quorum. Councilman Greg Willis gave the invocation followed by the reciting of the United States and Texas Pledges of Allegiance. The following business was transacted.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Cynthia Adams and seconded by Councilman Joey Vance, council members unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of March 14, 2023.

Council members reviewed the budgeted expenditures for February 2023. City Secretary Debbie Cormier presented the financial report for February 2023. Ms. Cormier reported that the second 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe patrol unit for the police department had been received in February. When comparing the year-to-date (YTD) revenue for February 2023 versus the YTD revenue for February 2022, she advised the current year was behind the prior year by about \$249,000. She stated that the entire amount was due to GLO grant funds and surplus items sold at auction during 2022. She advised that the 2023 YTD revenue exceeded the 2022 YTD revenue in the Garbage Fund by slightly more than \$29,000. She noted that 2022 YTD revenues exceeded 2023 YTD revenues in the Water/Sewer Fund by almost \$447,000. She explained that the entire amount was due to GLO and TDA grant funds received in 2022. Overall, she reported that the prior YTD revenue exceeded the current YTD revenue by \$679,540 but stated the total amount was due to the sale of surplus equipment and grant funds received in 2022. Ms. Cormier continued by saying that YTD revenues exceeded YTD expenditures in the General Fund by slightly more than \$274,000 and in the Garbage Fund by almost \$26,000. She advised that the YTD expenditures exceeded YTD revenues in the Water/Sewer Fund by approximately \$90,000 and in the Debt Service Fund by about \$9,600. Overall YTD revenue exceeded YTD expenditures by approximately \$201,000. Ms. Cormier closed her report by saying that there were 7.06 months of reserves in January 2023 and 7.27 months of reserves in February 2023; a gain of almost ¼ of a month. Council members had no questions or comments.

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

Regarding the discussion and possible action to approve an application for the installation of five (5) RV spaces on property at 1922 Strickland Drive, owned by Richard, Dale, & Wayne Potter, former Pinehurst Code Enforcement Officer Harry Vine stated that he represented the Potters in this request. Mr. Vine advised that he had notified all property owners within 500 feet of the proposed location in accordance with the city's ordinance. He stated that there were 20 properties with 17 owners. He noted that 11 notices were hand delivered and 6 were sent by certified mail. Mr. Vine informed that 1 notice was returned as undeliverable and 5 property owners did not respond. He advised of the 11 property owners who responded, 9 consented to the Potters' request and 2 did not. Mr. Vine presented photos and a plat of the proposed RV spaces to council members. He noted that all utilities were already in place. He stated that the ordinance required that the surface be either asphalt or concrete. He pointed out that the surface was concrete. Mr. Vine

advised that the spaces would include one 15' x 28', two 18' x 28', one 16' x 38' and one 21' x 62' and all would have additional space for parking. Mr. Vine informed that most of the property would be fenced but the front area would be difficult to fence due to the concrete. He stated that the Potters would be amiable to doing some landscaping in large pots for that part of the property. On a motion made by Councilman Greg Willis and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem J. Michael Shahan, council members unanimously voted to approve the application contingent upon the discussed landscaping.

City Administrator Jerry Hood reported that the year-end ARPA report was due on April 30. He noted that he had been working closely with the grant administrator to ensure completeness and timely filing of the report.

Mr. Hood reported that the TxCDBG grant application for the 40<sup>th</sup> Street & 41<sup>st</sup> Street project was due in May 2023. He said that he felt very confident that this project would be funded.

Mr. Hood reported that the city had been awarded the two \$1million grants. He advised that these grants included a 1% cost share. He noted that the \$10,000 cost share could be paid with ARPA funds for both grants. He informed that one of the grants was for pipe bursting and the other was for rehabilitation of the city's lift stations.

Mr. Hood reported that the city had another grant application that would supply generators to the city's lift stations. He stated that this grant had a 10% cost share.

Mr. Hood reported that Senate Bill 1827, which included an Opioid Abatement Settlement, was recently passed. He noted that the money from this settlement was being distributed to the cities. He advised that Pinehurst had been allotted slightly more than \$10,000. He informed that there were restrictions on spending and he was awaiting a list of allowable expenditures from the Comptroller's office.

Mr. Hood reported that the Grapple truck had been undergoing repairs for the last several weeks. He noted that the truck was back in service and crews were working to pick up the numerous piles of brush and limbs.

Mr. Hood reported that the city's trash service provider, Piney Woods, had been sold. He stated that no changes in management, personnel, or services were expected.

Mr. Hood reported that the new leased vehicles had finally been shipped. He informed that the vehicles were supposed to be on a one-year lease plan but that they had been delayed which resulted in an almost two-year lease instead. He said that that new vehicles should arrive soon and hopefully the one-year lease plan would work as intended from this point forward.

Mr. Hood reported that the fire department had elected a chief and assistant chief, pending Council approval at a later date. He noted that they had been working hard to get the department in order. He stated that air packs and bottles had been received and that bunker gear had been ordered. He informed that NFPA certified loaner gear was being provided to the department until the ordered

bunker gear arrived. He explained that the bylaws had been updated to include a dress code and commended the chief and assistant chief for their professional attire.

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 this was an annual agenda item. She advised that this information was required to be submitted to the Orange County Tax Assessor Collector. Ms. Cormier stated that the homestead exemption could not exceed 20% and that was the current amount for the City of Pinehurst. She reported that the current amounts for the 65 or Older Exemption and the Disabled Exemption were both \$10,000. Ms. Cormier recommended leaving all exemptions at the current rates. On a motion made by Councilman Joey Vance and seconded by Councilwoman Cynthia Adams, council member unanimously voted to leave the Homestead exemption at 20%; the 65 or Older Exemption at \$10,000; and the Disabled Exemption at \$10,000 for the 2023 tax year.

On consideration of changing the date of the May 2023 Council meeting, Ms. Cormier advised that council members in a Type-A General Law city could not assume their duty until the fifth day, excluding Sunday, after the election date. She stated that the election date was May 6. She noted that the current scheduled meeting was for May 9, only 2 days after the election when excluding Sunday. She recommended moving the date to May 16 to comply with Type-A General Law for elections. Council members agreed.

There were no Announcements, Comments, or Requests from the Council.

There being no further business to transact, Mayor Sarah McClendon adjourned this meeting at 6:25p.m.

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Mayor

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City Secretary