



# MINUTES

## Regular Evening Meeting

---

6:30 PM - Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
City Hall Council Chambers

The City of Pine City Council met in Regular Evening Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all present.  
City Staff: City Administrator Peterson, Brock Bloomquist, Nicole Tricker, Lara Smetana, Tabitha Pickett, Maury Montbriand, Adam Zemek, Tom Miller and Melanie Bloomquist all present.

**3. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Mayor Kent Bombard
- Council Member Dan Swanson
- Council Member Kyle Palmer

Judge Martin performed the swearing-in ceremony for the newly Elected Officials.

**4. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- City Administrator Peterson requested to remove item 9.4 (Mandatory Fun Outdoors - Froggy's Gambling Permit Application) from the Consent Agenda.
- Councilor Palmer requested to discuss Council Meeting times and days under new business item 11.10.
- Councilor Swanson requested further discussion regarding the current committees under new business item 11.11.

Councilor Pettie approved the agenda with the above-mentioned changes. Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public requested to speak during public forum.

**6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Voyageur Bottle Shop 2024 Contribution's - Presented by Lara Smetana, Liquor

Operations Manager

- City of Pine City/Fire Department
- Fire Relief Association

## **7. SHERIFF UPDATE / FIRE CALL REPORT**

### **7.1. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Deputy Moe provided the update on behalf of the Sheriff's Department. The department is actively investigating to identify the recent tagger.

Councilor Palmer inquired about the lighting situation near the legion. Deputy Moe agreed that additional lighting would be beneficial and suggested installing a crosswalk light similar to the one by the high school.

Councilor Palmer also raised the question of whether 24/7 coverage is needed.

Deputy Moe responded that he would inform the Sheriff about this request to get more details.

### **7.2. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Miller was present to answer questions regarding the Fire Call reports.

Councilor Swanson inquired if there was a common factor among the CO2 alarm calls. Chief Miller explained that there are multiple reasons why a CO2 alarm might activate. Councilor Palmer suggested that the City should post bi-annual reminders to change the batteries in Smoke and CO2 alarms.

## **8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

No questions regarding department reports.

## **9. CONSENT ITEMS**

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Councilor Pettie seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

- December 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Check Detail Report
- December 2024 Payroll Register

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

### **10.1. 315 MAIN STREET - TREE DISPOSAL**

Brock Bloomquist presented the quotes he received from three different contractors. He recommended either choosing the cheapest option or delaying the removal to allow the developer to address the problem.

Councilor Pettie asked if there was a possibility to save the trees. Councilor Palmer, a certified Arborist, expressed that the trees should be removed due to the extensive process required to save them.

Councilor Palmer proposed a motion to contract Blue Pine Works, aiming to utilize ARPA funds, if feasible. If ARPA funds are not available, the motion includes using general funds instead. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

**11.1. MAYORAL DESIGNATION OF 2025 - ACTING MAYOR TO SERVE IN MAYOR'S ABSENCE**

Mayor Bombard recommended Councilor Pettie for the position. Councilor Palmer disagreed with the recommendation and suggested Councilor Hill or Councilor Swanson instead. Councilor Hill declined the nomination due to family medical issues. Both Councilor Swanson and Councilor Pettie expressed their willingness to fill the role if needed. Councilor Palmer made a motion to make Councilor Swanson acting mayor. Councilor Swanson seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Councilors Hill, Palmer, Swanson and Mayor Bombard in favor, Councilor Pettie opposed.

**11.2. RESOLUTION 2025-01 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL 2025 NEWSPAPER**

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01. Councilor Pettie seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

**11.3. RESOLUTION 2025-02 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL SIGNERS ON FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

A discussion took place regarding whether the second signer should be the acting mayor or another council member. Mayor Bombard made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Hill and Pettie were in favor, and Councilors Palmer and Swanson opposed.

**11.4. RESOLUTION 2025-03 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES**

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve resolution 2025-03. Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

**11.5. RESOLUTION 2025-04 COMMITTING A PORTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY**

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04. Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

**11.6. RESOLUTION 2025-05 - TO NOT WAIVE STATUTORY TORT LIMITS**

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05. Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

**11.7. RESOLUTION 2025-06 APPROVAL OF FISCAL AGENT FOR HINCKLEY/PINE CITY FLAMES**

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06. Councilor Pettie seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

**11.8. RESOLUTION 2025-07 ESTABLISHING PRECINCT AND POLLING PLACE**

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07. Councilor Pettie seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Palmer, Hill, Pettie and Swanson all in favor.

#### **11.9. 2025 COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

City Administrator Peterson presented the current appointments and informed the Council that no decisions are required today. Mayor Bombard suggested that Council members email Marcy their top three choices. Councilor Palmer proposed dissolving the Personnel Committee but acknowledged that logistical details need to be addressed. He requested that this topic be revisited at the February 1st meeting. All Committee appointments will be finalized at the first February meeting.

#### **11.10. COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES**

Councilor Palmer raised concerns regarding meeting times, suggesting more committee meetings be held in the evening to encourage greater public engagement. He also proposed changing both Council meetings to evening times, specifically recommending 6 PM. Mayor Bombard suggested having one meeting at 6 PM and the other between 3:30-4:30 PM. Councilor Pettie shared her historical perspective on meeting times. Councilor Swanson agreed that evening meetings would be more beneficial. As a compromise, Councilor Pettie recommended holding one evening meeting per month.

Councilor Palmer made a motion to move Council meetings to the 1st and 3rd Wednesday's at 6 PM. Councilor Swanson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Councilors Palmer, Hill, Swanson and Mayor Bombard in favor and Councilor Pettie opposed.

It was then stated this meeting schedule will start in February. Councilor Pettie abstained from voting, citing an inability to attend the second evening meeting under the new schedule.

#### **11.11. COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS DISCUSSION**

Councilor Swanson requested a campaign to attract more volunteers for the City Committees and Commissions. Councilor Palmer suggested that if time constraints are an issue for potential volunteers, adjustments could be made. The campaign would utilize social media and newspaper advertisements.

### **12. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bombard welcomed the new Council members.


### **13. COUNCIL CONCERNS**

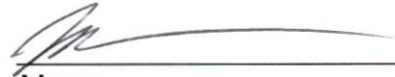
Councilor Palmer expressed the expectation that Department Heads attend all Council meetings to address any concerns. He also requested that each department head designate someone to answer questions in their absence. Additionally, he recommended that Department Heads take a public speaking class.

Councilor Palmer proposed that all contracts be reviewed annually by the Council and staff.

**14. ADJOURN**

Councilor Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Meeting Minutes Completed By: Melanie Bloomquist, Deputy Clerk  
Reviewed By: Marcy Peterson, City Administrator