



MINUTES

Regular Morning Meeting

10:00 AM - Thursday, December 19, 2024

City Hall Council Chambers

The City of Pine City Council met in Regular Morning Meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the City Hall Council Chambers.

NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY

City Councilor Dave Hill will be attending the City Council Meeting on Thursday December 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13D.02. Councilor Hill will be seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means and will participate from 715 10th St SW, Pine City, MN 55063, a location which is open and accessible to the public.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bombard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Bombard, Councilors Sloan and Pettie were present, while Councilor Hill attended remotely.

City Staff present: City Administrator Marcy Peterson, Melanie Bloomquist, Nicole Tricker, Lara Smetana, Brock Bloomquist, Tom Miller, Maury Montbriand, and Adam Zemek, Tabitha Pickett attended remotely.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Administrator Peterson requested that item 8.4 (Pine City Youth Hockey Association MOU) be moved to new business, and item 8.6 (Voyageur Liquor Store Scheduled Closed Holidays 2025) be moved to old business.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve the agenda with the above listed changes. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted yes.

PUBLIC FORUM

a) QUENTON PATZOLDT - TALON SANITATION

Would like to discuss the reasons behind the City's decision to cancel garbage service with Talon Sanitation. City Administrator Peterson provided the explanation for this decision.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

Aaron Bombard presented the Pride Crosswalk Proposal.

Mayor Bombard opened a public hearing regarding the Pride Crosswalk Proposal.

Gene Carlson - 875 7th St SW, He expressed that he does not believe it is a wise decision for the council to pursue this path. He emphasized that it is highly political and urged the Council to reconsider passing it.

Heidi Huff - 105 1st Ave SE, she believes that adding bright colors would enhance the crosswalk and make it more noticeable. She also thinks that this would be a good way to promote the art community in our city.

Heidi Gainor - 12307 Henriette Road, As a member of the art center, she believes this is a fantastic idea. The art center features a rainbow mural on its building, and she thinks the art council would be very supportive. She also shared suicide statistics, indicating that young adults in the LGBTQ community have a suicide rate four times higher than their peers. She believes that the community showing support will help decrease this rate.

David Anderson - Empower Recovery, He believes the community is overthinking this issue. He feels that adding color/art should not be a matter of contention.

Cathy Clune - 12263 Eastwick Lane, she has lived in this community her entire life and loves how vibrant it is in its support of the pride crosswalk.

Rosie Seaburg - 112 5th Street SE, she believes this is a political statement and that the City should not cross this line. She feels that everyone should be represented, not just one group of people.

City Administrator Peterson acknowledged that the City has received approximately 12 emails in support of the pride crosswalk.

Mayor Bombard Closed the public hearing at 10:23 AM.

Councilor Sloan stated that she loves the idea of adding color to the crosswalks. However, she believes the City should develop a system where other groups can also participate. She would prefer the crosswalks to feature only colors and art, without any words or symbols.

Councilor Hill suggested that this matter be brought to other committees, such as Public Works and Ordinance Review. He does not want to rush into it and would like it to be examined further.

Councilor Pettie expressed her enthusiasm for painting crosswalks and wants to create a system that allows this to become more widespread throughout the community.

Councilor Sloan made a motion to refer Crosswalk Art to other committees for further examination, with the intention of bringing it back to the Council during the January 23rd meeting. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor. Mayor Bombard abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) HRA

Mayor Bombard provided an update.

b) PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Bombard provided an update

c) ORDINANCE REVIEW

Councilor Sloan provided an update

d) LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Councilor Pettie provided an update

CONSENT ITEMS

- December 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Check Detail Report
- Request for Approval - Hire Warming House Attendants
- Rush City Contracted Fire Aid Agreement 2025
- Waste Management Contract

Pine City Youth Hockey MOU moved to New Business, Voyageur Liquor Store Closed Holidays 2025 moved to Old Business.

Councilor Sloan requested more discussion regarding the Rush City Contracted Fire Aid Agreement, City Administrator updated council that it was discussed with Rush City and their rates are now the same as our rates.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

a) ARPA FUNDS DESIGNATION

City Administrator Peterson and Nicole Tricker provided an update to the Council. Councilor Sloan suggested that the Ballfield Clubhouse lighting could be removed. Brock clarified that the lighting is intended to enhance security at the Clubhouse. Councilor Pettie emphasized the importance of ensuring that ARPA funding benefits the community. Councilor Hill proposed finalizing decisions next year; however, the funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. The Council would still like all purchases to be brought to their attention.

Councilor Sloan made a motion to approve Resolution 20241219-47 with the stipulation that all purchases must be approved by the Council, Councilor Pettie seconded the motion, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all voting in favor.

b) FINAL AFP #4 2023 MILL AND OVERLAY PROJECT

Greg Anderson from SEH presented remotely. This AFP will close the project at \$30,000 under the original bid.

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the AFP #4 for the 2023 Mill and Overlay Project, which was seconded by Councilor Pettie. Motion carried with the following Roll Call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voting in

favor.

c) VOYAGEUR BOTTLE SHOP SCHEDULED CLOSED HOLIDAYS 2025

City Administrator Peterson provided an update to the Council. Councilor Sloan questioned the decision to close the liquor store on Memorial Day and Labor Day. Lara Smetana explained the reasoning behind these closures, stating that New Year's Day is not always closed and it depends on when the holiday falls. She noted that historically, these days are less busy. However, Lara is open to keeping the liquor store open if requested. Councilor Sloan mentioned that, after contacting surrounding city liquor stores, they are not closed on these dates.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve the requested closed dates but requested that the liquor store remain open on Memorial Day and Labor Day. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

a) EMPOWER RECOVERY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Tabitha Pickett presented the CUP remotely. Mayor Bombard summarized the plan for Empower Recovery as discussed in the planning commission meeting.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve Resolution 20241219-48. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

b) SOLAR PANEL APPROVAL FOR 725 3RD AVE SW

Tabitha Pickett presented the Solar Panel request remotely.

Councilor Sloan made a motion to approve the Solar Panel request. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

c) PW BUCKET TRUCK PURCHASE

Maury Montbriand presented an update. He stated that the City hangs banners for the yearly graduates, Christmas decorations and several other large banners which has resulted in Public Works using the bucket truck more frequently. The current bucket truck did not pass inspection, prompting the City to make temporary repairs. The new bucket truck will expedite the process of decorating and hanging banners. Maury also mentioned that Sandstone does not have a bucket truck, so they may be interested in purchasing the current City bucket truck.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve Resolution 20241219-46, Councilor Hill seconded the motion, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

d) POSTING PW 2 POSITION

City Administrator Peterson updated Council.

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the posting of the Public Works 2 position. Councilor Pettie seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

e) POSTING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

City Administrator Peterson updated Council.

Councilor Sloan questioned the necessity of this position, suggesting that it might be prudent to wait and assess its importance. The City Administrator mentioned that a Public Works employee is currently at the front desk and expressed her opinion that this position should not assist as many departments.

The Council requested that the job description be revised before posting.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to table the posting of the administrative assistant position. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

f) CLOSE CITY HALL 12-27-24

City Administrator Peterson presented a request to close City Hall at 3 PM on December 27th for an office holiday party.

Councilor Hill made a motion to approve. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

g) 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

City Administrator Peterson presented the 2025 Meeting Schedule.

The amendment to the HRA Schedule involves only a time change to 8:30 AM. Mayor Bombard suggested possibly changing the Council day meeting to an evening meeting for 2025, and the Council requested that this decision be made once the new council is sworn in. Councilor Sloan provided a history on why the morning meetings were initially started.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve the meeting schedule with the amended HRA time. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard and Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

h) PINE CITY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MOU

Councilor Hill expressed concerns about the City sharing maintenance costs for the Zamboni, suggesting this should be included in the \$12,000 the City provides annually. Councilor Pettie explained that the aim is to allow PCYH to save money in case the Zamboni fails in the future. Brock Bloomquist voiced his opinion and noted that liners are not used on the hockey rinks but are used on the pleasure rink. He advocated for liners on all rinks to conserve water. Councilor Sloan recommended that Brock continue discussions with PCYH and suggested adding a repairs budget for the skating rink.

Councilor Hill made a motion to table the MOU with PCYH for revision, but it did not receive a second. Consequently, Councilor Hill withdrew his motion.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve the MOU with PCYH. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie and Sloan voting in favor and Councilor Hill voting against.

FINANCIAL REPORT

No questions or concerns were raised.

CLOSED SESSION

- a) **CITY ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED PURSUANT TO M.S. §13D.05, SUBD. 3, TO CONDUCT THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR MARCY PETERSON.**

Councilor Sloan made a motion to start the closed session. Councilor Pettie seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all voted in favor.

Mayor Bombard called the closed session to order at 11:55 AM.

Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all present. City Administrator Peterson and City Staff Melanie Bloomquist present.

During the Closed Session Council and City Administrator Peterson discussed her Performance Evaluation.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Councilor Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all voted in favor.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to open the public meeting. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all voted in favor.

- b) **CITY ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - OPEN MEETING**

The Council expressed their satisfaction with the performance of the City Administrator.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to offer a 5% salary increase to City Administrator Peterson's salary. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Pettie, Sloan and Hill all voted in favor.

City Administrator Peterson accepted the offer.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bombard expressed gratitude to Councilor Sloan for her service this year and for stepping in.

He also mentioned the possibility of adding a biking/walking path along Northridge Drive. Councilor Sloan suggested constructing asphalt trails off the road to facilitate easier walking and biking. Councilor Pettie recommended presenting this idea to the walking trails group and the CAP committee.


COUNCIL CONCERNS

Councilor Pettie expressed hope for future collaboration and mutual respect with the new council.

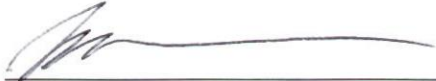
ADJOURN

Councilor Sloan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Mayor Bombard, Councilors Sloan, Pettie and Hill all voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM.



CAO



Mayor

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