



Village of Pinckney Regular Council Meeting Minutes December 9, 2024

President Buerman called the meeting to order in Village Council Chambers at 220 S. Howell, Pinckney, at 7:00 p.m. on December 9, 2024.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bierman, Buerman, Conquest, Coppersmith, Hartman, and Spencer
Also Present: D. Stoker (Village Attorney), J. Durkin (Village Zoning Administrator), J. Garrison (Chief of Police), D. Moma, (Village DPW Director), A. McCall (Village Clerk), and approximately 40 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Public forum opened at 7:02 p.m. Valerie Niemiec expressed well wishes to the newly elected council, and announced the appointment of Jim Jensen as the Putnam Township Village Liaison. She also introduced county plans for locating an additional 911 Cell Tower within the village. Jim Jensen stated he is looking forward to working with the village. Julie Amy expressed gratitude for personal strength she has found over the last several years working with village officials. Mike Szafranski is excited about the current changes he is seeing and what the future holds. Public forum closed at 7:10.

NOMINATION OF NICK KANE to the recently vacated seat on Village Council by President Buerman. Motion to appoint by Bierman, second by Conquest. Motion passes in a unanimous roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve by Bierman. Second by Spencer. Motion passes in a unanimous roll call vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Buerman expressed his support of a joint master plan between the village and the township, and working together moving forward. He recently attended PPLHH Chamber of Commerce meeting. Wreaths Across America will take place in our village cemeteries on December 14th.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT: Chief Garrison highlighted some of the more notable cases his staff has been involved in over the last year, and expressed pride in his team and their many accomplishments.

He read the following statement to council: *"Many of our new council members have not met the police officers who proudly serve our Village. I wanted to highlight and recognize some of our officers and recent cases.*

Most people are not aware that the Pinckney Police has the quickest response times of any department in Livingston County. Due to this, officers have arrived at scenes as incidents occurred.

We are a small community, and emergencies are not planned but when seconds matter, your officers are there.

In March, the 4 am burglary alarm at the Chrysler Dealership drew Ofc Prater to the scene within 1 minute. One suspect was immediately taken into custody at the scene. Seven others fled but three were caught in stolen cars as they fled the area. Five cars in all were taken and all were recovered within days of the incident. Investigator Hamlin began his investigation and this case evolved into a criminal enterprise involving multiple suspects breaking into car dealerships around Michigan. Our department has the experience, dedicated investigation time, and ability to track down

and build a criminal cases against all of the offenders. This case involved coordination with federal, state, and local police departments, massive amounts of intelligence data, and interviews. There will be search warrants executed by SWAT teams at multiple locations in Detroit. It has been a very complicated investigation, and we are expecting criminal charges on all suspects shortly.

Another case where our response time saved lives occurred in January. I would like to recognize Officers Prater and Kroske for their response and actions as they were dispatched to a disturbance on Unadilla St. A child called 911 to report his father and stepmother were not breathing. Pinckney officers again arrived within a minute and determined it was a double overdose situation. Officers provided first-aid with Narcan to save the parents of the two children inside the residence.

Pinckney Police then worked with CPS and other family members to aid in the children's removal from the home. Unfortunately, the children's biological mother had passed away three years earlier in another state, also from an overdose.

I would like to recognize Officer Sloat for coming to the aid a homeless, mentally ill male in November. Officer Sloat was called for a disturbance after a male was dropped off in Pinckney by a neighboring police department. Officer Sloat determined he was in need of shelter and brought him back to the police department. She then spent two hours calling shelters for the man. It was determined that he would be better suited for a hospital evaluation. Ofc Sloat transported the 21-year-old to the hospital for evaluation.

Just before Thanksgiving, Ofc Kroske responded to Light of the World Academy to assist with their parade. He ensured the safety of the children, parents, and staff as the parade led the children around the school on the roadway.

On November 30th, Reserve Officers Carlile and Acuff responded to Busch's Market for Cram the Cruiser. In the four-hour time period, they filled our Durango, Unadilla PD's Ford Explorer, and a representative from the Farley Food Pantry's Durango to overflowing. They also took in over \$600 in cash and gift cards. All food and money were transported to the Farley Hill Elementary School and donated to the food pantry for those in need.

Sgt Trenkle, Ofc Sloat, and Reserve Officer Myers attended the Light Up the Park event and ensured everyone's safety as well as facilitating the safe travels of the horses and carriages. During this, they decorated a tree for the Village and the PD.

On December 7, our officers participated in Shop With A Cop. This is where officers drive children to WalMart and go shopping with them as the kids pick out Christmas gifts. The gifts are dropped off for wrapping and the officers have lunch with their assigned children before returning to pick up the donated, wrapped Christmas gifts.

In early November, I gave a 3 hour presentation to the Pinckney Library for response to active aggression incidents. During this presentation, I learned of a potential stalking incident from one of the employees and immediately dealt with the offender.

And just a few days ago, Ofc Reckling saw a vehicle traveling on the roadway with lumber protruding from the passenger window approximately 4-5 feet. He stopped the vehicle and the female driver stated that she was on her way home to Lansing. Ofc Reckling unloaded her car then reloaded it safely so she could proceed without any further issues.

We will also be present at the Wreaths Across America event in the Village Cemetery.

These are just a few instances of our department working for our community, and I want to thank every council member for your support not only as residents and leaders of our community but as a partners with your Police Department."

DPW REPORT: Handrail installation on Main Street is wrapping up. New Well construction continues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

High School walking path: Dennis Brennan will be spearheading, and the goal is to see action before June.

Lakeland Knoll: No update at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATION: Motion to terminate Julie Durkin from her position as Zoning Administrator, effective immediately by Spencer, second by Bierman.

YAYS: Kane, Coppersmith, Bierman, Spencer, Buerman

NAYS: Conquest, Hartman

Motion carries. President Buerman then read the following statement:

"...Over the past few years, we have seen a growing number of complaints from business leaders-both during meetings and in private conversations-regarding the administration of zoning policies. The consistent feedback has been that the approach taken by this office has been perceived as anti-business, which is a significant concern for the future growth and vitality of our community. Historically, the role of Zoning Administrator was combined with another position, which allowed for better integration and cost efficiency. However, in its current state, this position has grown from a part-time role of 17 hours per week to 28 (sic) hours per week with full benefits. This shift has made the role increasingly costly, and at this time, it is not proving to be cost effective for the Village.

Our responsibility as a Council is to ensure that every position and office operates efficiently and effectively, serving the best interests of the community and working collaboratively with current staff. Moving forward, we need to reevaluate how this position and the Zoning Office as a whole are structured to better meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and staff."

APPROVAL OF 2025 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Motion by Conquest, second by Bierman. Motion carries in unanimous roll call vote.

HEALTH CARE ACT 152 Opt Out: Motion to Opt Out by Spencer, second by Conquest. Motion carries in unanimous roll call vote.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEMP: President Buerman nominates Justin Bierman. Second by Hartman. Motion carries in unanimous roll call vote.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Motion to table until January by Spencer. Second by Kane. Motion carries in unanimous roll call vote.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL RULES: Motion to table until January by Bierman. Second by Kane. Motion carries in unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC FORUM: Public Forum opened at 7:45. Brian Ignatowski is encouraged with the new council, and supports Pinckney. Public forum closed at 7:47 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Approval date_____

President Jeffrey Buerman_____

Village Clerk A. McCall_____