

**Town of Pomona Park - Town Council & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020 (6:00 pm) This meeting was held at Town Hall for Council only and for Public VIA TELECONFERENCE. Call 1-888-204-5987 Access Code is 3674654#**

Mayor Joseph Svingala presided. Council present were Dr. Robert Warren (attended by phone), Lynda Linkswiler, CarrieAnn Evans, Patricia Mead, James Griffin, and Victor Szatkowski were all present. Attorney Sherar, Clerk Donna Fontana and Treasurer Kelly Krupski were present.

Mayor Joseph Svingala led in the pledge to the flag. There was a moment of silence Leslie A. Vazquez, Stella Hendricks and Jessie Price.

Clerk read correspondence.

Councilman Warren asked the Council to excuse his absence for the 11/11/20 council meeting. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion to excuse Councilman Warren from the 11/11/20 council meeting and Councilman Griffin seconded the Motion. The Motion was unanimously approved.

**Meeting Minutes:**

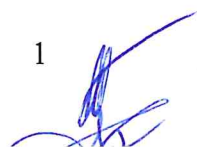
The Mayor requested approval of the Council Meeting Minutes for 10/13/20 and 11/10/20. Councilman Griffin made a Motion to adopt the minutes, Councilwoman Evans and Councilman Warren both seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

Treasurer Krupski gave the financial review. There were no questions.

Councilwoman Mead presided over the December Tree Board meeting. Congratulations to Pomona Park as we have been approved by the Arbor Day Foundation for our 30<sup>th</sup> Tree City Award! Thanks to Bruce and his guys and the office staff and the members of the Tree Board for all of the help that you have been this year and all the previous years. Mayor said, I would like to add to that Mr. Councilman Nate Mead who started this 30 years ago. Pat took it up upon Nate passing and I want to thank Nate. There was discussion regarding the need to revise the tree ordinance from 1991. There is a 1 page guide from the Arbor Day Foundation to see if we can use some of it. Arbor Day is January 8, 2021 at Bergquist Park in the pavilion wearing masks and social distancing. Not certain if we can do it or not but I'm checking. Several didn't have a celebration this year. Councilwoman Evans discussed about planting a ginormous Christmas tree for the residents to come and decorate each year. Councilwoman Mead thought an evergreen might be best. There was discussion about where it should be planted. Mayor said he would like to chip in some money towards the tree so we can buy a nice size tree. Pat will get information from Forestry on what tree they recommend. Joe Svingala Jr. thought Mayor's park might be an issue because of the senior walking path and everyone has a yard sale. There was discussion about the walking path and how that came about. Clerk explained and showed the drawing. Mayor Joe wants to ask residents for donations toward the Christmas tree.

Councilwoman Linkswiler gave an update from the Beautification Committee Meeting held on December 3, 2020. She reviewed the minutes. The purpose was to discuss the Christmas Lights contest. First place \$100, second place \$75 and third \$25. Joyce will get it into the Courier



Journal. Clerk was asked to explain the FPL donation checks. One check for \$200 to be used toward a Christmas event and the \$300 for Beautification in general. The contest will be judged on December 17. Next meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am, we will be discussing the breakfast and new officers. Mayor explained that although the Beautification has not been having meetings due to the virus that they must meet monthly according to the Charter. There was discussion about looking at the holiday pole flags/banners.

Mayor asked Attorney Sherar for an update on the mobile home park bus stop. Attorney said, he spoke with the guy yesterday and I will draw up a license agreement. I hope to have that done by the end of the week. He doesn't seem to be concerned about things, but I'm going to put something in there like, each party will hold the other one harmless. If he wants it moved he needs to give us 30 days notice and I don't think he'll have a problem with that.

Mayor asked and you're going to be bidding tomorrow? Attorney said, I've got the bid in already. I anticipate that is going to go for more than what we are bidding. There was more discussion about the 1771 building.

**Guest Speakers:**

None.

**Public Hearing items:**

None.

**New Business:**

Clerk requested the Council to approve 3 Mittauer invoices for payment for the CDBG Grant Engineering. Invoices 20542 for \$3070, 20497 for \$13,750, 20390 \$11,160. All spent so far on Mittauer is \$50,800. We are below the \$90,000 but the Mayor and I negotiated cheaper than that \$90,000 anyway, minus \$6500. We are close to \$40,000 under what we have committed to spend. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion that we pay Mittauer for the 3 listed invoices and Councilman Griffin seconded. Unanimous to approve the Motion.

Clerk discussed Moats invoice \$4500 to get the audit started. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion that we pay Moats for the invoice for \$4500 and Councilman Griffin seconded. Unanimous to approve the Motion. Clerk explained that this will be Moats last audit for us. He will no longer be doing audits because the yellow book requires that you have a separate accountant to do the financial statement and he doesn't have a big enough staff. I did ask him if he would assist us in doing an RFP to replace them and he agreed in April. Mayor said he said he would assist in interviewing the companies. There was further discussion on this.

Questions and comments. – Judy Szatkowski said, I just want to bring up a sore subject at least sore for half of the Council but when are you going to put money in the budget for merit increases? There was further discussion. It was decided to put this on the February agenda.

Joe Svingala Jr., brought up Crescent City Police Dept. issues. Clerk explained that we do not have a contract with the PCSO. Our afterhours work is for Deputies that sign up on their off-duty time.



There was discussion about the beach cameras and that no one wants to get anymore cameras until we are satisfied with what can be done to improve the beach cameras.

Mayor said, about the holiday dinner, its not a good idea. Clerk explained that the staff is doing a lunch and secret Santa. Councilwoman Evans suggested in lieu of the shindig, that whatever we paid last year should be split up and given to the Town workers as a gift certificate/card so taxes are not taken out of it. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion to give each team member \$50 gift card and it was seconded by Councilwomen Mead and Linkswiler. The vote was unanimous to approve the Motion.

Mayor said, next month we need to do the chair appointments and the Mayor Pro Tem. I would like to recommend Councilwoman Evans as the Mayor Pro Tem and would like you to think about it. Before next month comes and the new Council gets sworn in, I would like to give a huge thanks to Vic Szarkowski for his personal commitment to this Town for all the years he's spent on this Council and for everything he's done here as a Councilman. For being an absolute excellent Mayor Pro Tem and for being Roads and Streets. I don't think this Town has had anybody that has done anything near what Vic has done for that. Everyone agreed and thanked Vic.

Upcoming events: Were reviewed from the packet.

Councilwoman Evans made a Motion to adjourn.  
Adjourned at 7:13 pm.

