

MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 10, 2008
6:00 P.M.
201 WEST WATER STREET
PIQUA, OHIO 45356

Piqua City Commission met in a Special Work Session in the Commission Chambers in the Municipal Government Complex, 201 W. Water Street for a work session. Mayor Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Also present were Commissioners Martin, Vogt, and Fess. Absent: Terry. Also in attendance: City Manager Fred Enderle, Recreation Director Rob Stanford, and numerous citizens.

Purpose of the Special Meeting is to discuss Piqua Youth Baseball & Softball

Recreation Director Rob Stanford explained there is a conflict with the use of the fields by the various teams, which include the select baseball & softball teams and the Piqua Youth Baseball & Softball teams. The PYBSA leagues are in the process of restructuring their by-laws at this time, said Mr. Sanford.

The city has had a signed lease with the PYBSA for the past forty years, allowing the youth to play baseball and softball at Pitsenbarger Sports Complex, but currently there is not a signed lease at this time.

Tony Homer, President of the PYBSA, reminded the Commissioners that the PYBSA has maintained the fields over the years, and have put quite a lot of money in to them. City Manager Enderle stated, "the key factor to remember is that we've given them sole use of the fields".

Several individuals involved or interested in the various baseball leagues were in attendance and voiced their opinions on the use of the fields by the two different groups. These groups are made up of the select teams and the PYBSA recreational teams. Commissioner Martin commented that this might need to change now, stating that playing on the field is a privilege, and not a right.

There was discussion on the difference between recreational baseball and select team baseball, who maintains and controls the playing fields, number of days the various teams play on the fields, how many teams are in the different leagues, and who is responsible for the concession stand.

There was a lengthy discussion on the reason or need for select baseball teams, and how it affects the recreational baseball teams. Recreational teams are usually comprised of only Piqua players who just want to play baseball while learning the fundamentals and having fun at the same time. The select teams are not affiliated with the PYSBA and are not always comprised of Piqua kids only; they travel to different cities, and are usually considered to have the better kids on them.

City Manager Enderle suggested that before the Commission makes any decision they find out who all is interested in using the fields, and find a way to share them and work together.

Several citizens, who have been involved in the youth baseball over the years, voiced their opinions on the issue of not having enough fields and the fact the city does not have enough funding or manpower to take over the baseball and softball programs at this time.

Various questions were raised concerning the number of fields and the use of the fields by the various teams, and if some type of a schedule could be set up so that all involved can have the

use of the fields at some time. The problem is there are not enough fields for the number of teams requesting to play on them, said Mayor Hudson. A former baseball coach and parent stated baseball in Piqua has went down hill the last few years, there use to be around 1100 kids participating in baseball leagues and then at the end of the season they were chosen to play on All Star Team. Parents and coaches need to get together and work out their differences for the sake of the players.

Mayor Hudson stated just a casual observation today, you do not see many children playing pickup baseball or basketball games, it just doesn't happen anymore.

City Manager Enderle stated we cannot provide enough fields; practices need to be held at other locations so that the fields can be used for games as needed. A concerned parent stated that to hold practices at some of the schools is dangerous to the players with the fields having large holes in them. Questions were raised about the use of old Armco Field. City Manager Enderle stated the city no longer has a lease with Armco to use the fields.

There was discussion of the PYBSA restructuring their by-laws and was noted they have enlisted the services of Melvin J. Gravely a Professional Registered Parliamentarian to help them set up their new by-laws. Mr. Gravely explained some of the details of the new by-laws. Statements were made that the current PYBSA Board was not approachable and many parents were upset with the way things have been conducted. One suggestion was that a board be set up consisting of parents who do not have children playing baseball at that time.

City Manager Enderle stated the city could take more control by the lease, and could step in and fix the problem, have the Recreation Board and the Parks Board oversee the groups.

One of the questions raised was can anyone put together a select team from the existing teams, and take them out of the recreational league? The answer was yes. This is part of the problem.

It was suggested that a board be formed for each group and have a third board to govern the other two. Most parents feel the baseball program is for the kids and are willing to work together for the betterment of the program.

After a lengthy and very informational and vocal meeting, the commission decided they should consider getting both the recreational board members and the select team members together to find out what the best possible solution would be for the use of the fields.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Piqua City Commission Work Session at 7:35 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Hudson and Vogt. Motion carried unanimously.

THOMAS D. HUDSON, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION