

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2009
7:30 P.M.**

Piqua City Commission met at 7:30 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Hudson called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Martin, Vogt, Fess, and Terry. Absent: None.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Proclamation: American Red Cross Month

Mayor Hudson read the proclamation and presented it to Mark Wion of the Red Cross. Mr. Wion thanked the city and the Commissioners for their support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Piqua City Commission Special Meeting and the March 2, 2009 Regular City Commission Meeting be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Terry, Vogt, Martin, Hudson, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. NO. 2-09

An Ordinance amending Section 94.20 of the Piqua Code, relating to Community Swimming Pool Fees

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to give Ordinance No. 2-09 a first reading. Voice vote, Aye: Terry, Vogt, Hudson, Fess, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hudson then declared Ordinance No. 2-09 be given a first reading.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to bring Resolution No. R-25-09 back to the table. Voice vote, Aye: Hudson, Martin, Terry, Fess and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

RES. NO. R-25-09

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into all necessary agreements with the Fort Piqua Redevelopment Corporation relating to the Fort Piqua Hotel Redevelopment Project

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt to table Resolution No. R-25-09 until the next regular City Commission Meeting. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Hudson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to table Resolution No. R-25-09 until the next Regular City Commission Meeting.

RES. NO. R-27-09

A Resolution authorizing application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance for a boating access

There was discussion on the location of the boat ramp, the type of ramp that would be installed, and the cost to the City.

Moved by Commissioner Fess, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-27-09 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Hudson, Fess, Terry, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hudson then declared Resolution No R-27-09 adopted.

Public Comment

Terry Wright, W. North Street, asked if it would be possible to have the Piqua City Commission Meetings put on a DVD and to give several copies to the Piqua Library for citizens to check out and view. Mr. Wright also inquired as to the schedule for street and alley repaving this year.

City Manager Enderle stated the streets and alleys are scheduled for paving to begin in the fall, and project is on a five-year program for all of the alleys and streets to be paved.

Commissioner Terry suggested that residents call the City Street Department to inform them of problem areas in their neighborhoods.

Commissioner Fess asked if the street repaving schedule could be put on the website for citizens to view to find out when their particular area is to be done.

Chet Osborne, Staunton Street, inquired about the boat ramp behind Bennett School on Main Street, and the ramp by Lock Nine Park asking if they were still usable.

Mr. Osborne voiced concern about the increase in utility fees, why some the bills seem higher than usual for December and January, and asked if someone would look into it.

Commissioner Terry stated she had spoken to the Utility Office Manager and was told if the utility bill was estimated citizens could call and someone would come out to read the meter.

Finance Director Holtzapple explained why some of the utility bills were estimated the last two months.

Sandy Wolf, Broadway, voiced her concern over the Das Park area located on the corner of Broadway and Park Avenue. Commissioner Fess stated she has been to the park and described the areas she saw that are in need of repair.

Jamie Sykes, W. North Street, voiced his concern on the city not soliciting bids to complete the Piqua Plaza, and the amount of money being requested to complete the project. Mr. Sykes also voiced his opinion on how the restaurant was chosen for the Piqua Plaza. Mr. Sykes asked if the invitation to bid was published in the Piqua Daily Call, and stated he would like to see the bid process and the steps taken to choose the restaurant.

Roger Petijean, Broadway, voiced his concern over the increasing costs to the Piqua Plaza Project, and the need for street repairs instead.

Commissioner Vogt stated he has received numerous telephone calls on the issue of the Piqua Plaza, and will do what he thinks is in the best interest of the City of Piqua.

Commissioner Martin voiced his concern over the condition of several fire hydrants in the city. City Manager Enderle stated he would look into it. A work session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at 4:00 P.M. to discuss the Water Plant Study and the public is invited, stated Commissioner Martin.

Commissioner Fess stated she has received quite a number of telephone calls, emails, letters on the Piqua Plaza project, and appreciates all the input she has received.

Commissioner Fess stated she has been trying ever since she has been appointed to the City Commission to understand the structure of the Piqua Plaza and the financing. It is extremely difficult and is very complex, and explained some of the information she had received from the lengthy discussion she had with the City Manager earlier that day on the Piqua Plaza Project. Commissioner Fess further explained what tax credits are and how the city would benefit from the use of them, and

went over the figures of the total amount needed to complete the restaurant facility. We know there is a lot of concern out there and we need to make financial sense of the figures and costs in order to complete the project, but we also have to look at what is best for the city, said Commissioner Fess.

City Manager Enderle stated ads were not taken out for bids specifically, but there were a dozen or so articles written over the summer and fall in the newspaper about the need for a restaurant in the Piqua Plaza. There were about 40-45 RFP's sent out to various contacts as suggested by different ones, said City Manager Enderle.

Commissioner Terry stated one of the long-term goals that were high on the list of projects set by the Comprehensive Plan completed in 2008, was a request for a sit-down restaurant located in the City of Piqua. We need to get a paying tenant in the corner of the Piqua Plaza to help pay the bills, said Commissioner Terry.

The North Parks Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Wilder School on Nicklin Avenue, and residents are invited to attend, said Commissioner Terry.

Commissioner Terry asked for an update on the old Piqua Memorial Hospital building demolition project at this time.

City Manager Enderle gave a brief explanation on the status of the project citing the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is coming in on March 17, to do their own inspection of the property, and issue a timeline to get the clean up completed. This all should be completed within seven to eight months, said City Manager Enderle.

Mayor Hudson attended a fundraiser for the Red Cross on March 14th at the Piqua Plaza and it was a very pleasant evening and all for a good cause.

Mayor Hudson also stated he was sent a link to the Sports Illustrated Magazine where an article was written concerning the success of a non-chain restaurant Toon P. Wiggins operating in a small town such as Sidney, Ohio.

Mayor Hudson thanked Commissioner Fess for her detailed information on the Piqua Plaza project.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 8:30 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Hudson, Terry, and Fess. Nay None.

THOMAS D. HUDSON, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____

REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION