

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

Piqua City Commission met in a Special Meeting at 7:00 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, and Terry. Absent: Fess.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to excuse Commissioner Fess from the Special City Commission Meeting of June 22, 2009. Voice vote, Aye: Hudson, Martin, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hudson stated for the record, City Manager Enderle was under the weather and would not be in attendance. Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple conducted the Special City Commission Meeting in the City Managers absence.

**ORD. NO. 7-09**  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

An Ordinance levying a five-dollar municipal tax on motor vehicle license

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple gave a brief explanation of the five-dollar tax fee stating this item was included as part of the Long Range Financial Plan approved by the City Commission on November 3, 2008. This license tax fee will only apply to motor vehicles licensed in the City of Piqua, it is a five-dollar annual fee that if passed before July 1, 2009 will be collected in 2010, said Ms. Holtzapple. The funds will be used for general street maintenance, construction, repairing of highways and streets within the city, and purchase of traffic signals & lights.

Mayor Hudson asked what the amount of revenue would be generated by this five-dollar tax. Ms. Holtzapple stated the anticipated amount of revenue is about \$97,000 annually.

Commissioner Terry stated that if the City of Piqua does not levy this tax, Miami County could impose one for the whole county and the City of Piqua would lose the revenue correct? Ms. Holtzapple explained, the County could levy their own tax, and who ever levies the tax first would receive the funds. If the City of Piqua levies the tax than the funds stay in the City, if Miami County levies the tax countywide the funds will go to the County, said Ms. Holtzapple.

Mayor Hudson asked if we go forward with the five-dollar levy can Miami County also levy a tax and we have to pay double? Ms. Holtzapple stated no, only the other residents, minus the Piqua residents, would have to pay the county tax.

Commissioner Martin asked if we currently have a five-dollar tax at this time? Mrs. Holtzapple stated yes, back in 1987 a levy was passed for a five-dollar license fee. The City of Piqua currently has one, and the code states we can levy four fees in five-dollar increments, and this would be the second one.

Commissioner Vogt asked how many levies does the county have at this time? Ms. Holtzapple stated Miami County does not have any at this time, but other cities within the county have tax levies like this.

Mayor Hudson stated he has received about six emails from citizens who are not in favor of this tax.

Commissioner Martin inquired if there are any rate increases on utilities starting in January of 2010? Ms. Holtzapple stated two of the four utilities will have rate increases in 2010.

Commissioner Terry stated she feels the city needs to make street repairs a priority, get the streets in better shape, and by doing this the city would have a lot more support if the repairs were to be made in a timely manner. Commissioner Terry further stated she received a couple of email, and several telephone calls regarding the five-dollar tax fee.

Commissioner Vogt stated we are not going to receive any of this new tax money until 2010, and the repairs to streets are coming out of the quarter-percent city income tax we have now. Commissioner Vogt also stated he feels the streets have been neglected, and he and Commissioner Martin are making it their first priority to make sure the money currently being assessed is used for streets repairs at this time. No one wants to pay extra money, but it is just a one-time a year fee, and only amounts only about nine to ten cents a week, and he doesn't like it, but will pay it, said Commissioner Vogt.

Commissioner Terry stated no one wants to pay extra money in fees, but the city needs to take care of the infrastructure. Ms. Terry thinks it is important that we show the citizens we care, are interested in making the street repairs.

Commissioner Martin asked if there is a street and alley-paving plan for 2009? Ms. Holtzaple stated she would have to check with the City Manager and get back to him.

### **Public Comment**

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street, voiced his concern over several items, Mr. Boehringer read a section of the Ordinance regarding the dates of the meetings held previously, and questioned the fact that the City of Piqua has held thirteen meetings since the November 3, 2008 meeting and wanted to know why the five-dollar tax levy was not discussed before now. Mr. Boehringer also inquired as to why the City did not use the two and half million dollars that came into the City from the lottery winnings, and other taxes that came in, where has that money gone, and why was it not used for street repairs. Mr. Boehringer further stated he does not feel the city is being financially responsible. Ms. Holtzaple explained how the money is being used.

Mr. Boehringer commended Commissioner's Martin & Vogt for wanting to give Ordinance No. 7-09 three readings before passing it.

Chet Osborne, Staunton Street, asked if the five-dollar municipal tax would be on trailers or just motor vehicles and voiced his opinion about the increase in the fees. Ms. Holtzaple stated the tax would only be on motor vehicles not trailers.

Steve Stiefel, Brentwood, voiced his opinion concerning the five-dollar municipal tax, and asked the Commission to not waive the three reading rule at this time.

Joe Francis, Parkway, voiced his opinion on the five-dollar municipal tax, and stated he is against it.

Dick Haynes, Broadway, voiced his opinion, and stated he is in favor the five-dollar municipal tax, but would like to see it get three readings.

Russ Fashner, Forest Avenue, voiced his opinion on the five-dollar municipal tax, and wants the money used just for street repairs.

Larry Starrett, Fairfax Street, voiced his opinion on the five-dollar municipal tax and stated he is opposed to the tax.

Paul Stiefel, Boone Street, voiced his concern on the five-dollar municipal tax, and asked if the money could be earmarked for street repairs only.

Commissioner Vogt asked if the Ordinance could be amended to earmark it strictly for street repairs?

Ms. Holtzaple stated the city would have to follow the Ohio Revised Code and further explained.

Commissioner Martin asked if the funds could be earmarked just for paving streets? Ms. Holtzaple stated that would be a budgetary type of decision, not an ordinance type decision.

Deron Yingst, Adams Street, asked if the current five-dollars being collected goes into the General Fund or into a separate fund for the streets, and how much is in that street fund now, and is there any big street projects coming up, and would the money stay in the street funds only? Mr. Yingst further stated he feels the money should be used only for street repairs. Ms. Holtzaple explained how the money received would be utilized.

Commissioner Terry stated if the County levies the tax, it would most likely be used for county buildings and projects. Commissioner Terry further stated she would like to see the money collected and stay in the City of Piqua for street maintenance and repairs if possible.

Luke Bolin, Ann Street, voiced his opinion on the possible use of the five-dollar tax levy.

Commissioner Vogt stated he would like to have a motion to waive the three reading rule at this time. There was no response to his request at this time.

Commissioner Martin asked if the Ordinance had to be passed by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009? Ms. Holtzaple explained the Ordinance would have to be passed by June 29, 2009, so the City would have twenty-four hours to get the information overnight to the state.

Ordinance No. 7-09 was given a second reading, and a special meeting was set for Monday June 29, 2009.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Piqua City Commission at 7:35 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Hudson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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THOMAS D. HUDSON, MAYOR

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
REBECCA J. COOL  
CLERK OF COMMISSION