

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 19, 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, Fess, Vogt, and Terry. Absent: None.

Mayor Hudson stated the City of Piqua received the 2009 National Preservation Award for the Piqua Plaza project and asked Ruth Koon, Library Legacy Chairperson to come forward and give a brief overview of the award. Mrs. Koon stated Lorna Swisher of MainStreet Piqua, City Manager Fred Enderle and herself attended the awards ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Koon read the list of the twenty-three prestigious award winners of the 2009 National Preservation Award. This project was completed by teamwork from both the private and public sector, and without that teamwork this project would have never been possible, said Mrs. Koon. It was a great honor to be a part of such an amazing and wonderful project. Mayor Hudson stated the ribbon cutting for the Piqua Plaza was held a year ago today, and thanked everyone who worked to make it possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move into Executive Session for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to move into Executive Session at 7:40 P.M. for discussion and review of negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel. Voice vote, Aye: Terry, Hudson, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Fess, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:05 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Fess, Terry, and Hudson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting of October 5, 2009 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Hudson, Fess, Terry, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None.

ORD. NO. 16-09
(3rdReading)

An Ordinance levying a five-dollar municipal tax on motor vehicle licenses pursuant to section 4504.06

There was discussion concerning the fee being assessed at this time with the new stormwater increase going into effect soon, and what the five-dollar fee would be used for. City Manager Enderle explained how the stormwater fee would affect the Street Department fund, and noted the money needs to be spent strictly on the streets. It was suggested that the five-dollar fee should be designated for paving of the streets only. Law Director Wall explained under the statute in the Ohio Revised Code, it states the five-dollar fee collected can only be used for planning, constructing, improving, maintaining, and repairing the public roads and highways.

Commissioner Fess stated she would like Ordinance No. 16-09 to state the fees collected can only be used for street paving.

Law Director Wall stated the amendment to Ordinance No. 16-09, should read under Section 1, last sentence, insert a comma after the Ohio Revised Code, and insert the language “specifically designated for the paving of roads and streets.”

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin to amend Ordinance No. 16-09 as stated previously. Voice vote. Aye: Hudson, Martin, Vogt, Fess, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 16-09.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Ordinance No. 16-09 be adopted as amended. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Terry, Martin, Vogt, and Hudson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hudson declared Ordinance No. 16-09 adopted as amended.

ORD. NO. 18-09
(2nd Reading)

An Ordinance enacting Chapter 55 of the Piqua Municipal Code to establish a new Chapter entitled Stormwater Management, which provides for effective management and financing of a Stormwater Utility System

There was discussion of the various (Equivalent Residential Unit) ERA charges for apartment buildings and larger impervious areas. Devon Alexander, Stormwater Advisory Committee member stated an example of the breakdown of the ERA would be the Colonial Terrace Apartments on Covington Avenue, which has about forty-sixty units, and they would pay one-half of the \$4.70 ERA amount or \$2.35 per unit.

City Manager Enderle stated he would look into the ERA regulations further and develop calculations for various types of situations and provide alternative language and get back to the Commission.

Public Comment

Terry Wright, W. North Street, stated he has been doing some research on the commercial fees for Stormwater Management to the south of Piqua and the fee is \$5.00 and the residential rate is \$3.00 and asked why the City of Piqua is going to charge \$4.70. Mr. Wright also voiced his opinion on the amount of fees the schools would have to pay, and inquired as to what happens if we have a drought some year.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street stated he feels this is a good utility to think about, and voiced his opinion on the use of the green movement and possibly having a conservation credit in the future.

Joe Francis, W. Parkway, stated he looked at his utility bill and his water, sewer, refuse and recycling adds up to more than his electric and is concerned about adding more at this time. Mr. Francis also voiced his concern about the cost of recycling and asked about the bidding process.

James Cruse, County Rd 25-A, inquired about the cost of rebuilding a street and asked if State & Federal dollars are used. Mr. Cruse also asked what type of equipment would be purchased through the Stormwater Utility? City Manager Enderle explained the type of equipment that would possibly be purchased and stating we have most of the equipment already that is needed. Finance Director Cindy Holtzapple read the list of equipment used, and the replacement timeframe for each. Mr. Cruse asked if there would be any new personal hired with this program. Mr. Enderle stated two additional employees would be hired, one being a Coordinator.

Commissioner Fess reminded citizens this is an unfounded mandate that is required by the Environmental Protection Agency and is not something the City is doing to raise money. All of our neighboring communities have this in place or are putting it together like we are at this time, said Commissioner Fess.

Commissioner Terry stated it was great to have a group of citizens working on this as a committee, and forwarding their recommendations to the city for consideration, this is a good thing for the city.

Andy Monnin, W. North Street, member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee came forward and explained how they arrived at the ERU figures, and what other communities are doing, and looking at how their programs are funded. Mr. Monnin further explained the reason they did not recommend offering credits at this time.

Commissioner Fess stated she appreciated Mr. Monnin's comments further stating this was a group of citizens and community members who gave their time for several months to sit down and put together this information for the city to consider.

Commissioner Vogt stated some of the other communities did not do the extensive research the City of Piqua has done and they may have to raise their rates soon. Piqua has done a good job by doing the extensive research before enacting any fees. Commissioner Fess stated some of the other communities have already had to raise their fees because they were set to low to begin with.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to give Ordinance No. 18-09 a second reading. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Hudson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. NO. 19-09
(1ST Reading)

An Emergency Ordinance amending Chapter 76 of the Piqua Municipal Code to exclude bicycles from being parked on sidewalks

There was considerable discussion on enforcement of the parking of bicycles on sidewalks. It was stated that signage could possibly be used in certain areas of the city to designate bicycle parking, but all commissioners were not comfortable with enforcing the "no bicycle parking on sidewalks" in the residential areas. Bicycle racks are scheduled for placement in specific areas in the downtown, and it was suggested bicycle racks be placed across the street from the Library in the public square for citizens to park their bicycles. Commissioner Terry stated she is unable to park her bicycle in the bike racks since her tires are too wide to go into the rack. Commissioner Terry voiced her concern about having to cross the busy street to get to the Library if the bicycle racks were to be placed in the public square area.

City Manager Enderle stated he has received complaints along with the Commissioners on the bicycles being left on the sidewalks in the downtown area and in front of the Library. There was discussion on the problems with young adults hanging around the downtown areas and what could be done. Commissioner Terry stated the immediate problem seems to be in front of the Library and in the downtown area, not throughout the whole city. City Manager Enderle stated this is something the city will have to look into and get back to the Commissioners.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 19-09.

Moved by Commissioner Fess, seconded by Commissioner Martin to table Ordinance No. 19-09 indefinitely. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Hudson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to table Ordinance No. 19-09 indefinitely.

RES. NO. R-97-09

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to Nelson Tree Service, Incorporated for electric line clearance

Mayor Hudson inquired as to the number of bidders. Power Plant Director Ed Krieger explained the bidding process and how the bid was awarded. This is a specialized type of bid and only a few companies can bid on it.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-97-09.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-97-09 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Hudson, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hudson then declared Resolution No. R-97-09 adopted.

RES. No. R-98-09

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to G2 Digital Solutions for computer laptops

Questions were asked concerning the compatibility of the new computers with the 911 Center, the need for replacements at this time, if the computers were purchased specifically for Police Departments, and the lifespan of this particular computer. Police Chief Jamison explained the need for the new computers and how they are a specialized item, and stated they usually are replaced every four to five years due to new technology coming out.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-98-09.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Fess, that Resolution No. R-98-09 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Terry, Hudson, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hudson declared Resolution No. R-98-09 adopted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presented by – Mr. Bill Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Director of Economic Development

Mr. Murphy gave a brief Economic Development Update power point presentation highlighting the most important aspects of development in the City of Piqua. These aspects include Four Areas of Focus: Attract; Retain; Grow; Advocate, Marketing: Partnerships and Key Message Points, and Redevelopment & Revitalization: Plan It Piqua Priorities and Potential Funding Sources. Mr. Murphy concluded by stating this is really a team effort and each player is important in the growth of our community.

Public Comment

Terry Wright, W. North Street, voiced his opinion on Ordinance No. 19-09 stating he has done some research on other communities and their language on the placement of bicycles on the sidewalks. Mr. Wright feels the language in Code Section 76.04 is not specific enough at this time.

Kevin Pryfogle, N. Downing Street, thanked the Commission for not levying the maximum fee on the Municipal Tax on Motor Vehicles at this time. Mr. Pryfogle asked if the City has hired a new Fire Chief yet and if not where are we on the process of hiring one. City Manager Enderle explained the assessment meeting is set for October 20, 2009 and an announcement should be forthcoming soon.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street voiced his opinion on the Stormwater Credits, and stated he would like to find a way to lessen the burden on citizens who choose to use conservation methods.

Andy Monnin, Stormwater Advisory Committee member explained the costs and stated the credit program would drive up the cost for everyone including the citizens practicing the conservation methods. Credits are something that could be looked at again at the end of the five-year plan, said Mr. Monnin.

Mayor Hudson stated he encourages citizens to seek out the Stormwater Advisory Committee members to answer any questions they might have on the Stormwater Utility.

Jim Hemmert, Boone Street thanked the Commission for tabling Ordinance No. 19-09 at this time, and for taking the time to put more consideration in to what can be done with the parking of bicycles in the downtown and residential areas both.

Alan Miller, Park Avenue, stated the Northparks Neighborhood Association will be assembling new playground equipment at Das Park on Saturday, October 24, 2009 and invited citizens to participate. The Northparks Neighborhood Association have installed new roofs on the two shelters at Kiwanis Park this year, said Mr. Miller.

Joe Wilson, W. Greene Street, stated he was glad to see the Commission table Ordinance No. 19-09 at this time and to take the time to look into other solutions for the problems.

Mike Perando, Third Street, invited citizens to attend the Shawnee Neighborhood Associations Christmas Party to be held on November 19, at 7:00 P.M. at Staunton School.

Commissioner Vogt stated he was very impressed with the Regional Business Showcase and the attendance of the businesses held on October 15, 2009. Commissioner Vogt stated he also attend the National Guard Open House, and was very impressed with the commitment these men and women have made for our country.

Commissioner Martin stated he also attend the Regional Business Showcase on Thursday and was very impressed with the interest shown in the 110 vendors that were in attendance.

Commissioner Fess stated with the tabling of the bicycle ordinance, she asked citizens to contact the Commissioners with their suggestions and recommendations on what they would like to see done, or if they would like to be part of a committee to study the problems.

Commissioner Fess also attended the Regional Business Showcase and commended Piqua Chamber President Lisa Whitaker and her staff on putting together a wonderful expo, citing it was very well attended with people coming from all over the area.

Commissioner Fess thanked Mr. Murphy for the Economic Development Update stating in was very informative and his enthusiasm and energy for economic development is giving us all great hope. It is a difficult job and is a teamwork effort with the, commission and the community working together to make this happen and be successful, said Commissioner Fess.

Commissioner Fess stated the United Way is holding a fundraiser at the Piqua Bob Evans from 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday October 20, 2009.

Commissioner Terry stated she attended the Regional Business Showcase and spoke to a representative of Classic Products, a local business who donated the roofing materials for the two shelters at Kiwanis Park. Commissioner Terry also invited citizens to help with the setup of the new playground equipment at Das Park on Saturday October 24, 2009.

Mayor Hudson also attended the Regional Business Showcase and was very impressed with the setup and presentation of the vendors, and stated it was very successful event.

Mayor Hudson stated on Saturday October 24, 2009 the Piqua Education Foundation will be hosting Piqua's own Two Star Rear Admiral Phil Wisecup who will be the guest speaker at the Country Club, and stated tickets are still available at the Board of Education.

Mayor Hudson stated he received a telephone call concerning someone dumping trash off at a local residents house for the city to pickup. Mayor Hudson stated if you see anyone dropping trash off to get the license number of the vehicle, or take a picture and notify the proper authorities to stop this type of action.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Piqua City Commission at 9:40 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Terry, Hudson, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

THOMAS D. HUDSON, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION