

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday July 20, 2010
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 Fess called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Martin, Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: None.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

**Proclamation Council on Rural Services
Accepting Ms. Shirley Hathaway**

Mayor Fess read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Hathaway. Ms. Hathaway thanked the Mayor and spoke of several of the programs they offer.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the July 1, 2010 Piqua City Commission Work Session, and the July 6, 2010 Regular City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that the minutes of the July 1, 2010 Piqua City Commission Work Session, and the Regular City Commission Meeting of July 6, 2010 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Terry, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. NO. 22-10 (3rd Reading)

An Ordinance to change the street name of portions of Bridge Street and Statler Road

City Manager Enderle stated this is the third reading for the name change of portions of Bridge Street and Statler Road.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 22-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Ordinance No. 22-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 22-10 adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 23-10 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance to vacate a portion of public right of way known as River Street

City Manager Enderle stated this is the first reading of Ordinance No. 23-10 and is a request to vacate a portion of public right that only provides access to the levy and the City water tower. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of Ordinance No. 23-10.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that the rule requiring Ordinance No. 23-10 be read fully and distinctly on three separate days be suspended. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Vogt, Martin, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Ordinance No. 23-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Wilson, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 23-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-87-10

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to Francis Office Supply Inc. for various office products

City Manager Enderle stated we currently use an annual blanket purchase order with Francis Office Supply, and have been very pleased with their pricing and customer service. This would increase the amount approved from \$24,000 to \$50,000 for the 2010 budget year.

Commissioner Martin inquired if this was something that was missed when putting together the 2010 budget. Finance Director Cynthia Holtzaple explained the reason for the change at this time.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-87-10.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-87-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Wilson, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-87-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-88-10

A Resolution awarding a contract to Springbrook Software, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$920,000 for a new integrated Municipal Information Software System including data conversion, training, implementation and annual maintenance fees

City Manager Enderle asked Finance Director Cynthia Holtzaple to explain the project background with the costs and benefits outlined.

Mr. Enderle stated Barry Strock of Strock & Associates; the consultant on the project was present, and Karen Dyster a representative from Springbrook Software Inc. to answer any questions.

Mayor Fess stated an article was published in the Piqua Daily Call recently that produced a number of comments pro and con asking the reason the city is considering purchasing the computer system when we are facing such economical challenges.

Mayor Fess asked that comments and questions be held until Ms. Holtzaple completed her presentation.

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzaple gave a very in depth comprehensive in depth presentation on the need for and the advantages to the city of the new computer system software. (See enclosed presentation) Ms. Holtzaple stated the city has been extensively researching the purchase of the updated software for the last two years. The AS400 System 36 dates back to 1995, with some of the components dating as far back as 1985. The city has been searching for a "utility billing and governmental financial accounting system," to better meet the needs of the city. The Springbrook Software will offer the city a complete suite of financial and accounting systems, stated Ms. Holtzaple.

Features will include the ability to obtain information, including detailed reporting in real-time, increase productivity of current personnel, reduce costs and provide citizens the opportunity to go on line to pay their utility bills and manage their utility accounts. The new system will allow customers to receive utility bills via e-mail, be able to request and pay for certain licenses online, and would allow for better code enforcement within the city.

Mayor Fess thanked Ms. Holtzaple for her in depth report, and the IT Department for their help in putting together the RFP's and the presentation of the plan. It was also noted the City Commissioners were given in depth information in a two-hour Work Session held previously on the need for the new computer system at this time.

Commissioner Martin asked numerous questions that were answered by Mr. Strock and IT Director Dean Burch concerning the advantages and programs that were available with the Springbrook Software. Commissioner Martin stated he works daily on an AS400 Computer System at his place of employment, and is somewhat familiar with how it works.

Mr. Strock stated the city's IT Department has done a very good job on keeping the current system up and running, but they have stretched the current system as much as it possibly can be stretched by patching and adding additional software programs whenever possible. "You can't fix it anymore, you have pushed it as hard as you could", said Mr. Strock

A lengthy discussion ensued by all of the Commissioners on the use of the Springbrook Computer System versus purchasing another AS-400 computer system. Ms. Holtzaple explained the many reasons for the purchase of the Springbrook System. Mayor Fess asked if Piqua would be the first Community in Ohio to use the Springbrook System. Mr. Strock stated yes, Piqua would be the first community in Ohio to use the Springbrook System. Mayor Fess further stated Mr. Strock is the consultant on the project, and does not endorse or work for any software company.

Commissioner Vogt stated he is still concerned about how the city will be paying for the system, and asked what the guidelines are for borrowing internally. Ms Holtzaple explained the guidelines for borrowing the money internally.

Commissioner Wilson asked a question regarding the annual maintenance costs. Ms. Holtzaple explained. Commissioner Wilson stated it would be helpful to have a comparison between the AS400 and the new system. Dean Burch explained the annual maintenance costs. Commissioner Wilson asked Mr. Strock if he thought the current system would last ten years. Mr. Strock stated no way.

Commissioner Terry thanked all who worked on the project, and stated her concern was if the City could afford the new system at this time. Ms. Holtzaple said the answer is yes; the city can afford to make the yearly expenditure of \$41,593 that would be required to purchase the new system.

Law Director Stacy Wall stated the current computer system is not able to keep up with the growing needs of the city. For example, the city passed an Ordinance recently to collect a stormwater fee but is unable to bill it with the current computer system without having to write a new program. This is how the current system is failing us now, and why the new system would be such an asset to the city.

The implementation will begin immediately starting with the finance modules being installed between now and December, and in 2011 the Human Resources/Payroll module and the Utility Billing modules will be installed, said Ms. Holtzaple.

Public Comment

Joe Francis, Parkway, inquired as to the upfront costs of the computer system, and asked how the city planned to take money from the Street Department when the Street Department is broke. City Manager Enderle explained.

Valerie Mullikin, Caldwell, thanked Ms. Holtzaple for her outstanding presentation on the computer system. Ms. Mulligan voiced her concern about the city possibly going to an all automated system in the future, and asked about a backup system. IT Director Dean Burch explained.

Deron Yingst, Adams Street, voiced his opinion on the purchase of the computer system, stating he was against it at first, but now believes it is a great system.

Joe Goetz, Wilshire Drive came forward to voice his opinion and concern on the purchase of the computer software system. Mr. Goetz feels it is a bad time to be spending money, and would like to see the city to wait two-three years if possible before going forward with such an expensive purchase.

Moved by Commissioner Martin to table Resolution No. R-87-10 until August to take the time to digest all the information presented. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-88-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: Martin. Motion carried on a 4-1 vote. Mayor Fess declared Resolution No. R-88-10 adopted on a 4-1 vote.

RES. NO. R-89-10

A Resolution accepting the resignation of Debra Osborne as a member of the Community Diversity Committee

City Manager Enderle stated with the resignation of Ms. Osborne there will be a seat open on the Diversity Committee for her unexpired term.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-89-10

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-89-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess declared Resolution No. R-89-10 adopted.

OTHER

Public Comment

Bob Bloom, Union Shelby Road, a representative of the Piqua Firefighter's Local 252 came forward and read a prepared statement with answers to the questions that were asked at the July 6, 2010 City Commission Meeting.

Mayor Fess responded to the statements and concerns that Mr. Bloom presented.

Mr. Bloom stated he would like to make it clear that it was stated a firefighter makes \$100,000 a year. That is not correct; the \$100,000 figure is the total cost of a firefighter to the city, not the salary of a firefighter.

City Manager Enderle stated there are several other departments that are on call such as Power/Distribution, and a lot of people get called in for many reasons at all hours, including Department Heads at times.

Roy Howard, Spiker Road, came forward and asked if the city is planning to raise city fees with the purchase of the new computer system.

Joe Goetz, Wilshire Drive, came forward and voiced his opinion on the purchase of the new computer system. Mr. Goetz also inquired about a report he requested on the Piqua Plaza.

Valerie Mullikin, Caldwell, inquired about some of the city streets being torn up for such a long period time, and asked the expected time frame for the repairs to be completed. City Engineer Amy Havenar explained.

Luke Bolin, Ann Street voiced his concern over an alley by his home badly in need of repairs. City Manager Enderle explained the alley repair schedule, and stated he would look into it.

City Commission Comments

Commissioner Wilson stated he would like to see more information published in the Piqua Daily Call if possible on various city projects and topics to keep the citizens informed on what the city is doing.

Commissioner Terry congratulated Shirley Hathaway and The Council on Rural Services on the wonderful job they are doing, stating they are a real gem for the city.

Commissioner Martin stated he was given a tour of the Pump House in Shawnee, and was able to see first hand all of the grass and debris building up in the sewer lines. Commissioner Martin reminded citizens to blow their grass back into their yards, and not into the street where it gets washed down the sewers.

Commissioner Vogt, voiced his opinion on the purchase of computer system, and the process the city went through to make a decision on the purchase the computer system. Commissioner Vogt also reminded and invited citizens to attend the Car Show being held at Fountain Park on Saturday, July 31, from 11:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. and concluding with a performance by the Van Dells at 7:00 P.M. in the Hance Pavilion.

City Manager Enderle stated the city received the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund (COAF) grant from the State of Ohio in the amount of \$199,900 for the Phase II Environmental Study at the old hospital site. The city also received Stimulus dollars from ODOT to be used for street repairs in the amount of \$274,952 with the city putting in 10% matching funds. The funds are earmarked for redoing Washington Avenue from Park Avenue to St. Rt. 66.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn into Executive Session at 11:00 P.M. P.M. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Vogt, Martin and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin to adjourn from Executive Session at 12:00 A.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Fess, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 12:00 A.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Martin, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: No. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION