

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday September 7, 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 Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: Martin.

Mayor Fess asked for a motion to excuse Commissioner Martin from the September 7, 2010 Piqua City Commission Meeting. No motion was made to excuse Commissioner Martin.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the August 17, 2010 Regular Piqua City Commission meeting, and the August 30, 2010 Piqua City Commission Work Session

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that the minutes of the August 17, 2010 Regular Piqua City Commission meeting, and the Piqua City Commission Work Session of August 30, 2010 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 24-10 (3rd Reading)

An Ordinance determining to proceed with and levying assessments for the improvement of Riverside Drive Street Reconstruction

City Manager Enderle stated this is the third reading of Ordinance No. 24-10 to request authorization for the submission of the unpaid sidewalk, curb and gutter assessments to be certified to the county auditor's office to be placed on the property tax duplicate. Mr. Enderle stated 48% of the residents have chosen to have the assessments applied to their property taxes at this time.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 24-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Ordinance No. 24-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 24-10 adopted.

ORD. NO. 25-10 (2nd Reading)

An Ordinance to levy special assessments to pay for the cost of nuisance abatement assessments

City Manager Enderle stated this is the second reading for residents to either pay the assessments, or have them assessed with their property taxes for a five or ten year period.

City Manager Enderle asked that the three reading rule be waived in order to get the assessments to the county by the September 13, 2010 deadline.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 25-10.
Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to suspend the rule requiring Ordinance No. 25-10 to be read fully and distinctly on three separate days. Voice vote, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Ordinance No. 25-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 25-10 adopted.

ORD NO, 26-10 (2nd Reading)

An Ordinance to levy special assessments to pay Miami County for demolition per terms of National Stabilization Program Grant Agreement

City Manager Enderle stated this is the second reading on the joint effort with Miami County Commissioners to enter into a Federal Grant Program to use Federal Funds to demolish buildings in Shelby and Miami Counties. Piqua is entering into a sub recipient agreement to demolish buildings within the city limits, and that agreement provides that half of the cost of demolition must be assessed to the property owner. The National Stabilization program grant provides funds to demolish properties not in compliance with city codes, said City Manager Enderle.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 26-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to suspend the rule requiring Ordinance No. 26-10 to be read fully and distinctly on three separate days. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Ordinance No. 26-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 26-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-98-10

A Resolution authorizing a contract with Fifth Third Bank, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. U.S. Bank, N.A., Unity National Bank and MainSource Bank to serve as a depository for Public Funds

City Manager Enderle explained state regulations as prescribed within Section 135 of the Ohio Revised Code requires depository agreements to be in force before political subdivisions can maintain interim funds and bank balances at qualifying financial institutions. Our current agreements with these banks will expire on September 30, 2010 and this resolution would allow the city to deposit public funds with these institutions, and must be adopted by a resolution.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-98-10.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-98-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-98-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-99-10

A Resolution accepting the resignation of Bradley S. Boehringer as a member of the Tree Committee
City Manager Enderle stated this resolution is accepting the resignation of Bradley S. Boehringer as a member of the Tree Committee for personal reasons.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-99-10.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-99-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess declared Resolution No. R-99-10 adopted.

RES. NO. 100-10

A Resolution accepting the resignation of Jimmie A. Reedy as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals

City Manager Enderle stated this resolution is accepting the resignation of Jimmie A. Reedy as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals since he is unable to meet his obligation due to work commitments.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-100-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-100-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Wilson, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-100-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-101-10

A Resolution extending a contract to Kleingers & Associates for a Stormwater Mapping System

Devon Alexander, Stormwater Coordinator, gave a brief summary on the mapping system updated review. Mayor Fess asked Mr. Alexander to explain what types of things are being mapped at this time. Mr. Alexander explained they are locating the manholes, catch basins, noting the pipe size, the flow of the stormwater, and loading all of the information in the GIS System for future reference.

There was discussion on the reason for the large number of structures, and why the numbers were so far off. It was stated again that they are working from very old outdated maps, thus the reason for the project now. City Manager Enderle stated other communities are having the same problems, and the EPA Mandates that this be completed. Up to the seventies or eighties no records were normally kept on the number or locations of the structures, said City Manager Enderle. Several questions were asked concerning oil being dumped down a storm drain, and if this would enable the city to locate where it came from and try and stop the flow, and if they have found any storm sewers connected to any sanitary sewers? Mr. Alexander stated yes, the oil can be traced from the source by using the new maps and the GIS System, and so far they have not found any storm sewers connected to any of the sanitary sewers.

Public Comment

Jim Cruse, County Rd, 25-A, voiced his concern over the need for the count of the structures at this time, and the cost of the project.

Joe Drapp, Park Avenue, a member of the Stormwater Advisory Board came forward and stated the Stormwater Board was unanimous in their support of this project. This is something that needs to be done, and cannot be done by city employees, and he considers it money well spent, said Mr. Drapp.

There was discussion on the lack of previous records being kept, and it was stated that this is not just the case in Piqua, all commissions are facing the same request by the EPA. By having this information in the GIS System the City would be able to track any problems or potential spills and contain them, and make necessary repairs to damaged lines. Mr. Alexander reminded the Commission that Kleingers has kept the same price of \$24.98 per structure as they quoted for the first 2000 structures for the completion of the project.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-101-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Terry, Vogt, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-101-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-102-10

A Resolution awarding a contract to HPI, LLC for combustion turbine inspections and life extension evaluation

City Manager Enderle stated this resolution would allow the city to enter into a contract with HPI, LLC for inspection and life extension of the Power System's two combustion turbines for a total cost not to exceed \$70,000.

Power Systems Director, Ed Krieger gave a brief overview of what the peaking units are used for and when they are utilized. Piqua's General Electric Frame 5 combustion turbine was installed new in 1971 at a cost of \$2.7 million and is rated at 21,000 KW. The other unit is a Westinghouse 191G and was built in 1965 and was purchased used and installed in 1990 at a cost of \$2.2 million and is rated at 17,000 KW. Piqua has a long history with HPI and they have provided the city with combustion turbine engineering and consulting services for the past twenty years, said Mr. Krieger. The Piqua Energy Board unanimously recommended the City Commission award the contract to HPI.LLC at their regular Board Meeting held on August 24, 2010.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-102-10.

Commissioner Terry asked if the cost of the inspections were budgeted in the 2010 Budget? Mr. Krieger stated yes, there was \$100,000 budgeted for this project in the 2010 budget.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-102-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-102-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-103-10

A Resolution requesting preliminary authorization for the resurfacing and berm stabilization of State Route 66

City Manager Enderle stated this would authorize the City of Piqua to enter into an agreement with ODOT to do the resurfacing of State Route 66 from the (Forest Hill Cemetery) north corporation limit of Piqua to the Miami/Shelby County line in the City of Piqua. ODOT requires preliminary legislation from the local jurisdiction as part of their programming process. The City of Piqua will not have any financial involvement in this project, and the project will be completed in 2014, said City Manager Enderle.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-103-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-103-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-103-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-104-10

A Resolution preliminary authorization for the pavement planing and resurfacing of US Route 36 and State Route 185 within the City of Piqua

City Manager Enderle stated ODOT would pay the costs for pavement planing and resurfacing of USR 36 from Downing Street to Spring Street and on SR 185 from Washington Avenue to Spring Street. This resolution would allow ODOT to complete the programming for the project, which is scheduled for late 2011. The total cost to the City of Piqua would be \$120,000 out of the \$600,000 which is 20%, with the money to be budgeted in the 2011 budget, said Mr. Enderle.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-104-10.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-104-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-104-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-105-10

A Resolution requesting preliminary legislation for the bridge replacement on Statler Road over Interstate Route 75

City Manager stated this resolution is a request for authorization to enter into an agreement with ODOT for the replacement of the Statler Road Bridge over Interstate 75. This project is scheduled for 2013 with the City of Piqua having no financial responsibility.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-105-10.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-105-10 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-105-10 adopted.

RES. NO. R-106-10

A Resolution awarding a contract to Walls Brothers Asphalt Company, Inc. for the 2010 Street Resurfacing Program

City Manager Enderle stated this resolution authorizes a contract to Walls Brothers Asphalt for the 2010 Street Resurfacing Program for a total cost not to exceed \$241,000. The streets included in this years paving program are: W. High Street from Sunset Dr. to Lambert Drive; Lambert Drive from W. High Street to Wilshire Drive; Commerce Drive from Sunset to R.M. Davis Parkway (24' width).

City Engineer, Amy Havenar stated the City of Piqua has completed over 2-2 ½ miles of paving this year.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-106-10.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-106-10 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-106-10 adopted.

OTHER

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple gave a brief update thru August 2010 on the Fort Piqua Plaza Operating Summary. Ms. Holtzapple went over the revenues and expenditures including the reimbursements and the transfer in Fund 001 giving the new totals. Ms. Holtzapple stated they have had six or seven new rental contracts since the last meeting, and have received \$10,000 from Toon P's, and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

There was discussion on several items including why the telephone charges were up and where Toon P's stands on their back rent. Ms. Holtzapple stated the phone charges also include cable and internet fees, and that Toon P's rent is now paid up through June of 2010 at this time.

Economic Development Update

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

Mr. Murphy gave a brief power point presentation on the Joint Economic Development District (JEED) at County Road 25 South and I-75 and explained the process.

There was a brief discussion on who would provide law enforcement in the area, would it possibly be the Township, and what Township is this area located in. Mr. Murphy stated the law enforcement would be negotiated when completed, and the new area would be located in both Washington and Concord Townships.

Public Comment

Roy Howard, Spiker Road, announced the Lockington Fire Department is having a Parade and a Car Show on Saturday September 11, 2010.

Jim Hemmert, Boone Street, came forward and stated he has been working with the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission on a study of the Bike Path usage, and stated on a Wednesday 289 people went through French Park with 108 walking and 173 biking, and on a Sunday 460 people went through French Park with 137 walking and 319 biking.

Mr. Hemmert stated he participated in a Bicycle Safety Plan with the Piqua Police Department. A video was made on the Rules and Regulations on the Streets, and there are plans to show the video on APTA and in the schools, and to any service organizations that request it.

Mr. Hemmert reminded citizens that on Saturday September 25th MainStreet Piqua is hosting Dancing in the Moonlight on Main Street from 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Also the 6th Annual Stride & Ride will be held the same evening beginning at Riverside Drive and ending at Lock Nine Park on the Bike Path and luminaries will be lighting the path.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Hemmert for his dedication and volunteering in the City of Piqua.

Kevin Pryfogle, N. Downing Street, came forward and stated he does not support (the recall) what is happening in the City of Piqua, and he supports the Commission, and respects the office of Commissioner. Mr. Pryfogle feels there is a lot of negativity in the city and he would like to see more positive comments, further stating we are all in this together. Mr. Pryfogle stated he wanted to publicly thank City Engineer Amy Havenar for always providing the answers to the questions he has asked.

Ruth Koon, Park Avenue, came forward and asked Law Director Stacy Wall to explain the Recall Process, so citizens are better informed.

Law Director Wall explained how the recall process would be followed from the initiation of the petitions to the end result if a Special Election should need to be held. Ms. Wall further explained who would be eligible to run for the various Commission seats in each of the wards, stating by the City Charter the current Commissioner would not be able to run for their seat. Ms. Koon inquired if the petitioners would have any financial outlay, and if the petitioners were required to have legal council. Ms. Wall stated no, it would be responsibility of the City to pay for the Special Election and could cost the City up to \$17,000, and no, it is not required that the petitioners obtain legal council. Ms. Koon stated the community needs to move forward and to respect each other's views, and keep the betterment of the community in mind. Ms. Koon asked citizens to contact the four Commissioners and offer their support.

Bill Shinall, New Haven Road, voiced his opinion on the recall of the four City Commissioners, stating he hopes things work out.

City Commission Comments

Commissioner Vogt stated he has heard a lot of complaining about the cost of the new computer system with people stating it is a "million dollar computer system". Commissioner Vogt further explained the cost of the computer system was only \$619,075, and could be less than that because of the contingency amount of \$203,127 that was built into it for unexpected expenses. Commissioner Vogt went on to explain money is needed for maintenance regardless if a new computer system is purchased or the old system is kept.

Commissioner Vogt further explained that the rumors that are spreading about the city possibly using part-time or volunteer fireman in the future are just rumors he stated. Commissioner Vogt further explained they did make a visit to another town to see how they were using part-time fireman, but these were certified working fireman that worked their off duty days from other departments close by.

Commissioner Wilson stated one of his goals as Commissioner is to lessen the negativity in the community and the recall is not helping to do that. The recall could possibly cost the city roughly \$17,000 and this is something he feels the city should not have to do. Commissioner Wilson stated he would like to challenge the P.O.I.N.T. Group to pay the cost of the recall election, and further stated citizens voted in the last two elections for the Commissioners they wanted to represent them and he feels they should not have to vote again. Commissioner Wilson thanked all the citizens who have called him in support and disagreed with the recall.

Commissioner Terry announced the North Parks Neighborhood Association will meet on September 9th at 7:00 P.M. at Kiwanis Park and invited residents to attend.

Commissioner Terry also thanked citizens for their telephone calls of support, stating there are a lot of positive things going on in Piqua to focus on rather than all of the negative things. We are in the middle of trying to recruit a new City Manager and we to have a budget that we have to live within just like the residents, said Commissioner Terry.

Mayor Fess congratulated all the committee members and volunteers on another successful Heritage Festival.

Mayor Fess read a prepared statement that has been reviewed and approved by all of the Commissioners concerning the recall. (See enclosed statement).

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 9:25 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: No. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION

It is with deep regret that I have to make this statement for I feel we should always look for the positive in every situation. Unfortunately a situation has occurred here in our city that does not appear to have a positive side.

Last Wednesday morning members of the local landlords group known as POINT filed affidavits with the City Clerk for the recall of Commissioners Terry, Wilson, Vogt, and myself. Their statement, which appeared in the Monday edition of the Piqua Daily Call, listed several reasons for their actions and those charges need to be addressed. The persons filing these affidavits were Jim Cruse, President of POINT, Dick Haynes, Soldier Fish, and Robert Anspach.

On Thursday morning they returned to City Hall with a list of their committee members who will be passing petitions in an attempt to collect 1000 signatures of registered Piqua voters to force a special election to recall the named commissioners and elect their own people at a cost of approximately \$17,000 to the city. The committee members are: Jim Cruse, Dick Haynes, Robert Anspach, Irv Baltes, Chet Osborn, Russ Fashner, Terry Wright, Louis Jacoment, Darla Liette, and Sterkle Coyne. Several are names that have had a long history of interaction with the City of Piqua. A couple of these persons ran for city commission during the last election and were defeated. Others have had an ongoing battle with the city over one issue or another for several years. Now, they are attempting to take over city government so they can have their way.

I would like to address some of the comments made in their statement that appeared in the Call. POINT stated that city government is unresponsive to the peoples needs. Let's look at which people they are referring to. POINT has continuously tried to bypass the City's nuisance ordinances by complaining that they are unfair and by asking the city to change the way the nuisance violations are addressed. The purpose of these ordinances is to require that landlords take responsibility for the upkeep of their properties and to correct the rundown appearance of many which are a blight on our city's landscape. In November of 2009 this same group worked against the betterment of the city by defeating amendments to the health code by referendum.

Have the commissioners been unresponsive to their requests - probably so, in some cases. We believe the citizens of Piqua want their city to look good. These unkempt properties affect the property values of our homes and are a deterrent to city growth. They create an environment that is not conducive to a growing and thriving community. If questioned as to why they let the properties go the landlords will tell you that they cannot afford to make the repairs the city requires. Yet, they continue to purchase substandard properties, rent them out and pocket the profits without a thought as to how they are affecting our community. One of the committee members has even served time in jail for his blatant refusal to repair a safety hazard at one of his rentals. The city did not send him to jail, the judge did. These issues were the beginning of their discontent and since then they have attempted to turn people against our city government by questioning every thing we do and by dispersing incorrect information and half-truths.

The constant stream of Letters to the Editor from POINT members attacking the city is one reason the citizens are disenfranchised. The negativity they are spreading during a difficult time in our country and in our city many times contains a lot of misinformation.

A commissioner's job is not an easy one. It is extremely time consuming, pays very little, and certainly has more headaches than rewards. However, we do the job because we believe we can make a difference for our hometown and that is what we strive for. It would be easy to throw up our hands and say "enough is enough" however, we took on the job and we will continue to do it to the best of our abilities and in the best interest of our citizens. However it becomes even more difficult when a group of malcontents believe they have all the answers and can do a better job than seasoned, knowledgeable, dedicated public servants.

In their statement POINT stated the last two city managers that have been hired have “been chosen in a manner which has caused turmoil and negativity in the community and it’s time for the citizens to stop tolerating the poor judgment of our city commissioners.” The fact is, only one current Commissioner was in office when the last city manager was hired and none were on Commission when Mr. Rohr was hired. This is an example of how POINT tries to use various instances against us for which we have had no connection with or say so in. Ask yourself do you want this group of landlords hiring your next city manager?

POINT mentioned the “blatant disregard for the safety that the citizens are accustomed to.” I am not sure what they are referring to but I would assume that it is in regard to the concerns expressed by the President of the firefighters union, who by the way attended the POINT meeting and voted to recall the four Commissioners . First, I want to make perfectly clear that I feel no city commissioner would ever approve any action that would disregard the safety of our citizens. Remember folks, we live here to. Our houses could catch fire and we need those paramedics for our family’s well being just like everyone else.

The city manager, in an attempt to make necessary budget cuts has mentioned several ways to save money in our safety services departments since they comprise over 75% of our total city budget. But, as I have told the fire chief, deputy fire chief, and the Bill Hogston, the union president, the City Commission has never had a serious discussion on hiring part-time or volunteer firefighters and has been opposed to any layoffs in that department at the present time. This too has been miscommunicated to the public spreading fear and concern that is unwarranted. It has been blown way out of proportion.

Are we facing budget issues? Yes, just like almost every other American city during these bad economic times. Do we need to look at all areas to identify savings? Yes, and we are doing this with the realization that our top priority is to continue to provide the highest level of services we can for our citizens given the funds we have to work with.

You can be sure that we would never, ever, do anything that would jeopardize the safety and well being of our citizens. That is a fact! We will figure out a way to make our budget work without putting the safety of the community at risk.

The accusation that “city committee members are either hand picked by the city manager or biased in their opinions by department heads or commissioners votes directed by the city manager” is another untruth. Interested citizens are asked to fill out an application for the committee appointment they are interested in. All these applications are then emailed to each commissioner who then identifies the person or persons they want to appoint and inform the city manager of their choice. Could this statement by POINT have been generated by the fact that a couple of their recall committee members were not chosen by the commission when they recently applied for committee seats? Point also wants to direct whom we place on city boards and committees.

Point has said “recall is a right when elected officials are not performing as he/she should.” By whose standards are they gauging this? Because we do not conform to all their wishes and adopt all their recommendations does that give them the right to evaluate us for the entire community? I thought that was done every two or four years by the voters.

In closing I would like to pose the following thoughts for you as citizens to consider::

Don't you think the POINT group should provide specific instances as to how and where the commission has exhibited uncontrolled spending on nonessential projects? And, who

is determining which projects are essential and which are not given the information that is provided.

Can you recognize the personal agenda POINT has in their attempt to take over our city government?

Do you want the POINT group in a position to hire the next city manager? Or better yet, appoint one of their own members in the role of city manager?

Why is John Martin the only Commissioner not being recalled? Since I can remember only two instances where Commissioner Martin voted no on an a major issue that the other Commissioners approved, and abstained once because of his work position, does this make him exempt from all the charges that have been leveled against the other four commissioners given all the business that has been conducted over the last 2 ½ years?

Do you wonder how Commissioner Martin can set by and watch as his fellow Commissioners face recall action and then defend the group that is coming against them?

Is Commissioner Martin's close friendship with the POINT members what has kept him from being on the recall list? It should be noted that Commissioner Martin meets with the POINT members in the city parking lot after every city commission meeting (which has jokingly been deemed the "post meeting meeting") and that on one occasion following an Commission Executive Session they waited to talk with him until our adjournment at midnight.

Are you aware that some Commissioners have been told that the POINT group have already determined which of their members will be running for each of the four ward seats if the recall is successful? Some of these were the people who were defeated in the last election.

Finally is it in the best interest of our City, given current economic conditions to spend approximately \$17,000 to hold a special election to satisfy the needs of a special interest group that is accusing the current Commission of wasteful spending?

Point is an organization which is primarily made up of Piqua landlords, many of which do not even live within our city limits. They own properties that we commissioners routinely get calls from citizens about voicing their concerns about the deterioration of their neighborhoods. I ask you, do you feel they have the best interest of our community at heart?

The four Piqua City Commission members who are under attack are all Piqua natives who have been duly elected by the citizens of Piqua. They each have served the community in many ways over the years. They have no agenda other than to work as hard as they can to make Piqua a better place to live and work. I hope and pray that you, our Piqua citizens, will see this attempt to overtake our city government for what it is, an attempt by a special interest group to promote their own agenda

As your Mayor I ask you to stand with me, Commissioners Wilson, Terry and Vogt in an effort to stop this senseless recall action which can and will prove devastating to our city both now and in the future.