

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday November 15, 2011
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, Martin, and Wilson. Absent: Commissioner Terry.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin to excuse Commissioner Terry from the November 15, 2011 Piqua City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Wilson, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation – Community Advisory Council

Scott Phillips came forward and gave a brief overview of the Community Advisory Council responsibilities, and presented a power point presentation on the projects they have been involved with and working on. Mr. Phillips stated the Community Advisory Council has completed extensive research on the Superfund sites in Troy. The Troy water plant is over forty years old, and the CAC would like to recommend the City of Piqua partner with the City of Troy and build a new Water Treatment Plant in the City of Piqua. This Water Treatment Plant would be a gravity fed system which would also save electricity, stated Mr. Phillips. Several of the CAC members were present in the audience and Mr. Phillips introduced them. Information regarding the Community Action Council can be found on City of Piqua Website.

Tom Buecker, Hopewood Drive, President of the Community Advisory Council came forward and thanked the City Commission for appointing him to the CAC Committee as he has learned a great deal about the water in the City of Piqua and what we can do to preserve it and protect our waterways. Mr. Buecker stated the Committee would like for Piqua to think very positively about building a new Water Plant. The CAC has accomplished quite a bit acquiring a \$150, 000 grant to clean out the silt at Echo Lake at Echo Hills Golf Course, and have received a \$125,000 grant to purchase a weed harvester to help clean up the lake water. The CAC is encouraging the city to not give up the control of our water.

City Manager Huff stated the City Commission is looking at alternatives and no decision has been made at this time. There will be public Work Sessions held to receive public input before any decisions are made. Mr. Buecker invited citizens to attend any of the Community Advisory Committee meetings to share their information. Mayor Fess thanked all of the CAC Committee members for their time and for working so hard and further stated she appreciates all the information they have provided.

Approval of the minutes from the November 1, 2011 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting. Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that the minutes of the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting of November 1, 2011 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 14-11 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance repealing Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code and adopting a new Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code, relating to wages of certain Municipal Employees

City Manager Huff stated the minimum wage in the State of Ohio will be increased from \$7.40 to \$7.70 per hour. There are several positions included on Schedule A-1 that will need to be adjusted to be in compliance with the State of Ohio minimum wage rate requirement.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 14-11.

Ordinance No. 14-11 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 15-11 (1st Reading)

AN Ordinance repealing Chapter 33.08 –Insurance and enacting a new Chapter 33.08 –Insurance of the Piqua Code, relating to Employee policy

City Manager Huff stated this Ordinance would approve the updating of Chapter 33.08 of the Piqua Code with regards to employee health insurance for the 2012 benefit year. This would keep the 2012 non-union employee contribution for health insurance coverage at the same percentage as 2011.

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple explained the City would continue with coverage from United Health Care again for the 2012 benefit year with only a 9% increase.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 15-11.

Ordinance No. 15-11 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 16-11 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio for the year 2012

City Manager Huff stated this is the first reading of the appropriations for the year 2012 Budget that will be appropriated from the General Fund. The first Budget Meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 6:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room, and is open to the public. This will cover the Enterprise Fund, Community Development, Streets, 101 and 103. Additional Budget Meetings are scheduled for November 28th at 6:00 P.M. for the General Fund and if needed November 30th at 6:00 PM. in the Administrative Conference Room.

Mayor Fess stated the Commissioner's received their 2012 Budget Books before the Commission Meeting and will be reviewing the information.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No 16-11.

Ordinance No. 16-11 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 17-11 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of \$49,328.92 of bonds in anticipation of the collection of special assessments to pay costs of construction in the year 2010, sidewalks, curbs and gutters on Broadway (Phase II) and a Stormwater Improvement with the necessary appurtenances thereto

City Manager Huff asked Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple to give a brief overview of the issuance and sale of bonds in anticipation of the collection of special assessments to pay the costs of construction on Broadway and for a Stormwater Improvement.

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple explained that this Ordinance would restore the dollars to the Street Construction Fund 103 and to the Stormwater 411 Fund for future use. The Broadway reconstruction and the Stormwater project were public projects. The costs of these improvements are the responsibility of the property owner. Some of the citizens chose to repay the city over a 5 or 10-year period. By issuing these bonds, funds can be more quickly available for other projects, stated Finance Director Holtzapple.

Mayor Fess stated the City would also gain interest on these bonds.

Finance Director Holtzapple asked that the Commission give this a first reading at this time, and would like to have it passed at the December 6th meeting if possible.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No 17-11.

Ordinance No. 17-11 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-128-11

A Resolution supporting the Fiscal Year 2012 United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Program application

City Manager Gary Huff stated Resolution No. R-128-11 is a resolution of support for the City's application for funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency through the Brownfield Assistance Grant Program to perform Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments in the community.

Our community has numerous parcels that can be defined as a "Brownfield". Over the past five years, the City of Piqua has applied for the \$400,000 program and last year, the City's application rated "moderately high" indicating that the application will be favorably review this year. This program is highly competitive with only about 20% of the applications being funded.

Commissioner Martin asked if there were specific sites that the funds could be used for at this time? Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy explained the ReDo Piqua Plan completed in 2009 identified several potential sites and these funds can be used and will be considered if needed. Mayor Fess asked if property owners would be able to benefit from these funds? Mr. Murphy explained the will help the property owners work with the city to clean up their properties. Commissioner Wilson asked if a Company would be eligible for help from these funds. Mr. Murphy stated the money would come from the grant to cover the environmental assessment and funds could be used to pay for either the Phase I or Phase II evaluation. The potential cleanup would be their responsibility if no other grant funds were available at that time, stated Mr. Murphy.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-128-11.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adopt Resolution No. R-128-11. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-128-11 adopted.

RES. NO. R-129-11

A Resolution nominating Gary A Huff to the Governing Board of the Piqua Improvement Corporation

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-129-11 is a resolution nominating the City Manager to the Governing Board of the Piqua Improvement Corporation due to the retirement of former City Manager Fred Enderle.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-129-11.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-129-11 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-129-11 adopted.

RES. NO. R-130-11

A Resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-130-11 appoints the City Manager to serve as one of the City officials for appointment to the Community Diversity Committee.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-130-11.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-130-11 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-130-11 adopted.

RES. NO. R-131-11

A Resolution opposing action by the Ohio Governor or General Assembly to take Municipal Tax Collection and/or administration away from Municipalities and centralize such control within a state agency or third-party entity, and declaring an emergency

City Manager Huff stated the State of Ohio recently adopted a biennial budget that substantially reduces annual Local Government Fund distributions beginning in 2011, and totally eliminates the Estate Tax revenues to the City beginning in 2013.

Any consolidating or centralizing of municipal income tax collections would significantly reduce revenue to the City of Piqua, making it increasingly difficult for the City to pay for local public services including police, fire, EMS, public works, roadway maintenance, and recreation programs, stated City Manager Huff.

Commissioner Vogt stated the City of Piqua tries to spend the citizen's money wisely, and it makes him mad to think we might have to turn our tax money over to the State so they can charge us a fee to administer it. Commissioner Vogt encouraged citizens to e-mail or write to their legislators to voice their opposition to the Municipal Tax Collection by the State of Ohio.

Mayor Fess stated the Mayor's and City Managers Associations are also sending the same opposition letters to the State of Ohio opposing this Municipal Tax Collection.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the City of Piqua knows how much the percentage fee will be to administer the tax collection yet? Finance Director Holtzapple stated currently there is nothing in place yet, but it has been rumored it could be 1 ½ to 4%.

Mayor Fess said in our local communities we go after the delinquent taxes, but the State will not have the manpower to do that so we stand to lose a lot of tax dollars.

Finance Director Holtzaple explained the City collects taxes on a weekly and monthly basis to meet our monthly needs, but the State has not indicated when and how the City of Piqua would be reimbursed. It has been stated it could possibly be done on a quarterly basis, which would significantly impact the City of Piqua General Fund. Also the State does not know of all of the various types of taxes we collect, and we will also lose the Estate Tax in 2013, said Ms. Holtzaple.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-131-11.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Vogt that Resolution No. R-131-11 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-131-11 adopted.

RES. NO. R-132-11

A Resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-132-11 appoints Daniel J. Henthorn to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Hicks as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire on March 1, 2014.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-132-11.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-132-11 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Vogt, Wilson, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-132-11 adopted.

OTHER

Economic Development Update

Bill Murphy Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager gave a quick presentation on the Economic Development activities in 2011 so far. Mr. Murphy listed some of the success stories and new opportunities for 2012. Mr. Murphy presented a quick update on the Grow Piqua Now work plan. This includes focus on international recruitment in partnership with the Dayton Coalition and the Troy Development Council, working with our regional partners in Troy and in the northern Miami Valley on domestic business recruitment with research on investment (ROI), have undertaken a consultant engagement program to raise awareness of the specifics of business development opportunities that exist in Piqua, engaged a consultant to help us better understand the retail opportunities that exist at our various shopping centers in Piqua, this year with our partners the Piqua Chamber of Commerce we have taken on an aggressive Retention and Expansion program and visited with several companies to provide them with information and have spoken with them about the challenges and the opportunities here in Piqua. This has been the best year in terms of construction activity in nearly a decade with \$27.2 million dollars in construction activity with investments from the public and the private sector. There were three significant expansion announcements Atlas Precision, Palmer Bolt, and Berwick Steel. The Berwick Steel expansion is a \$2 million dollar investment in the City of Piqua. The City of Piqua has been very successful in receiving grant applications in 2011, receiving \$2 million dollars from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund award for the clean up and demolition of the Piqua Memorial Hospital site, which may get started yet this year, have applied for \$1.4 million dollars through the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Sustainable Redevelopment Tract for the remediation and redevelopment of the area located behind the Power Plant at 919 S. Main Street. Have made new partnerships opportunities with Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC) and Western Ohio

TV Consortium (WOTVC) in 2012. There will a lot of opportunities for the City of Piqua in 2012 stated Mr. Murphy.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Murphy for his very informative report and encouraged him to keep up the good work he is doing for the City of Piqua in the future.

Mayor Fess recognized Rick Deitering, Troop Leader and the Boy Scouts from Troop #344 from the Knights of St. John. Nick Berger came forward and addressed the Commission on behalf of Troop #344 giving a brief overview of their accomplishments. Mayor Fess thanked Boy Scout Troop #344 for coming to the Commission meeting and stating she hoped they were able to learn something about local City government.

Public Comment

Tom Buecker, Hopewood Drive, came forward and inquired about the work currently being done on Echo Lake. City Engineer Amy Havenar gave a brief update on the progress of the work being done at Echo Lake at this time.

Commissioner Vogt, stated looking at the Boy Scouts in the audience he wondered how many of them are possible potential City Managers or City Commissioners, further stating he was glad to see them attend the City Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Vogt asked citizens to take a look at the new Channel 5 the Piqua Access Channel and see all the new changes that have been made with the weekly weather, good music, the monthly meeting schedules and much more. Jennifer Welker the new Executive Director is doing a wonderful job, stated Commissioner Vogt.

City Manager Huff stated the first Commission Coffee meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 16 at 9:00 A.M. This will be an informal meeting with the City Commissioners and the Department Heads and we will be meeting every other month with the various city departments throughout the City. This will give the hosting department the opportunity to share some information about the department and highlight the important activities and programs going on. This will be a good way to share information with the Commission, said City Manager Huff.

Beginning on December 8, the Commission will be holding regularly Monthly Work sessions, and they will take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers. These will be informal meetings open to the public where the Commissioners will discuss various topics about upcoming legislation. City Manager Huff encouraged citizens to attend and ask questions.

City Manager Huff stated there has been some inquiry as to the Sunset Drive this week and gave a brief explanation on the work being done at this time. City Manager Huff stated they would get more information out to the community in the future.

City Manager Huff also reminded citizens to sign up for the Piqua Alert Program, which is a notification system that the City will announce emergencies or road closings, and vital information out to the citizens in a timely manner. Also the Piqua Police Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$23,406 for new Police Cruiser cameras, and compliment the staff for going after those grants, which will help the City Budget, stated City Manager Huff.

Mayor Fess stated she attended the Miami County Foundation Awards as they encourage groups to apply for the grants and also for the scholarships they have available. For more information contact Cheryl Stiefel-Francis at the Miami County Foundation. Mayor Fess also congratulated Sean Ford on his new position as Director of the United Way. Mayor Fess congratulated Berwick Steel on their expansion and they stated they hope to have another expansion in the future.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:40 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Lucinda L. Fess, Mayor

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION