

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday February 7, 2012
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, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: None.

Presentation

Piqua Compassion Network – Ms. Ann Hoover/ Mr. Andy Monnin

Greg Brookhart representing Piqua Compassion Network came forward and stated Andy Monnin was unable to attend the meeting and gave a brief history of PCN. Mr. Brookhart read the Mission Statement for PCN and explained the need for the programs in the community.

Ms. Hoover explained the day-to-day operations and the various programs offered by the PCN. Last year over 799 clients were served in some capacity, with over 300 requests for help with utilities, and were able to provide over \$6000 in utility assistance. Classes are offered to provide clients with the tools to overcome their problems and to get ahead. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed, said Ms. Hoover.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Brookhart and Ms. Hoover for their very informative presentation, stating PCN is a very valuable organization in our Community.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Approval of the minutes from the January 17, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting and the Work Session minutes from January 12, 2012. Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that the minutes of the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting of January 17, 2012 and the Work Session minutes of January 12, 2012 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

ORD. No. 2-12 (2nd Reading)

An Ordinance to vacate a public right of way

City Manager Huff stated this is the second reading of Ordinance No. 2-12. City Planner Chris Schmiesing gave a brief overview of the request to vacate the public right of way. Mr. Schmiesing stated this Ordinance was at the request of three adjacent property owners to vacate a portion of the public right of way located at Statler and Bassett Avenue. This vacation was approved by the Planning Commission at their January Meeting with the recommendation of an easement for ingress/egress and to maintain a utility easement.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 2-12.

Ordinance No. 2-12 was given a second reading.

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 3-12 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance amending Chapter 34 of the Piqua Code to reflect City Procedure and changes in the Ohio Revised Code

City Manager Huff asked Law Director Stacy Wall to give a brief overview of the changes.

Ms. Wall explained that Chapter 34 establishes the procedures for bids and forfeiture of property. The majority of the changes in the Ordinance are updating the sections to the correct state statute since the State repealed the forfeiture law and rewrote it. The other change is to delete Section 34.18; this section makes specific reference to exempt a state statute from application to the City. After review, this statute adds protection to the City so the exemption is being repealed.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 3-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the rule requiring Ordinance No. 3-12 be read on three separate days be suspended. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Ordinance No. 3-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Vogt, Martin, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 3-12 adopted.

ORD. NO. 4-12 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 77.01 – Traffic Schedules Adopted, Schedule I of the Piqua Code, relating to Speed Limits

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated with the rerouting of ST 185 there has been discussion as to whether the speed limit should be lowered to 25 MPH or whether it should remain 35 MPH on the sections of roadway that were once SR 185. After numerous public meetings and discussions the City Commission directed City Staff to lower the speed limit to 25 MPH on the following sections of roadway: Park Avenue between Marymont and Broadway, Broadway between Park Avenue and W. Ash Street, and W. Ash Street between Broadway and N. Downing Street. The portion of Park Avenue between Marymont Drive and Sunset Drive will remain 35 MPH as per direction from the City Commission, said Ms. Havenar

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 4-12.

Ordinance No. 4-12 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-11-12

A Resolution awarding a contract for the purchase of transformers for the Power System

Power System Director Ed Krieger gave a brief overview on the purchase of the transformers.

Each year the Power System solicits bid to replenish the inventory and this year five bids were received for transformer of various sizes, voltages and quantities. The lowest and best bids were received from Brownstone and Ermco. Twenty-seven transformers totaling \$114,452 will be purchased from Ermco, in addition would like to purchase fifteen GE transformers from

Brownstone for a total cost of \$15, 801. There is \$150,000 included in the 2012 Power System budget for distribution transformer purchases, said Mr. Krieger.

There was discussion on the shelf life of a transformer, and the number of transformers that are designated for inventory and backup. Basically we are just replenishing our inventory, said Mr. Krieger.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-11-12.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-11-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-11-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-12-12

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase the real property and building(s) located at 515 E. Ash Street

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated during 2011 the City of Piqua and the Right-of-Way Consultant worked with the property owners of 515 E. Ash Street on the acquisition of their property in conjunction with the E. Ash Street Reconstruction Project. The negotiations began with only acquiring the right of way at a fair market value. The City also made an offer to the property owners to purchase the entire property as the property owners have approached the City on numerous occasions in the past years requesting the City purchase their property. In August of 2011 after numerous failed attempts to successfully negotiate the property acquisition, they commenced with appropriations proceedings for the right-of-way only at 515 E. Ash Street. In November of 2011, the City was granted immediate possession of and access to the right-of-way of the parcel based on the value of the property taken and damages were set at \$19,000. Since then, the property owner has contacted the City requesting the City purchase the entire property and not just the right-of-way.

There were questions regarding the total value amount of the property purchase including the right-of-way, and what the timeline was for the acquisition of the property. Ms. Havenar explained this is only an estimate, the Consultant will look at relocation expenses and closing costs.

Mayor Fess stated she was glad the City was able to work out the agreement with the property owners, further stating Ms. Havenar has done a great job on acquiring this property.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-12-12

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-12-12 adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-12-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-13-12

A Resolution of Appreciation for the public service of Allen Dock as a City Employee

Mayor Fess stated this is a Resolution of Appreciation for the twenty-four years of service provided by Allen Dock to the City of Piqua Police Department. Mayor Fess read the Resolution in its entirety and presented it to Police Chief Bruce Jamison asking him to make sure Mr. Dock receives it as he was not present at the meeting.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-13-12.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-13-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-13-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-14-12

A Resolution amending the agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the US 36 (E. Ash Street) reconstruction project

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated on December 16, 2011 the City Commission passed Resolution 133-11 to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the U.S. Rt. 36 E. Ash Street Reconstruction Project. The agreement was for an amount not to exceed \$604,000, but even after the bids came in we were still under the \$604,000, but would like to increase our contract with ODOT to allow for flexibility during construction and for changes that could arise. The Federal Highway & ODOT are providing funding in the amount of \$99,273 towards the project and OPWC is providing funding in the amount of \$465,712. By increasing the legislation by \$180,000 this will keep the project under the original budgeted amount, said Ms. Havenar.

Several questions were raised including when the project would begin, a completion date, signage put into place informing customers of the businesses located on Rt. 36 they will be open during the reconstruction project, and the route being utilized for the detour. Ms. Havenar stated the plan is to begin construction the week of February 20, 2012, depending on the weather, and hopes to have it completed in September 2012 sometime. Signs will be set for rerouting of traffic, and Project Manager Bob Graeser will be meeting with the businesses located along Rt. 36 to assist them.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-14-12

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-14-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Martin, Wilson and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-14-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-15-12

A Resolution requesting preliminary legislation for the pavement planning and resurfacing on State Route 185 within the City of Piqua

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated ODOT will be paving the portion of State Route 185 from Covington Avenue to Park Avenue which is the newly rerouted St. Rt. 185 in 2016. ODOT's Urban Paving Program allows for projects to be completed with an 80/20 split with ODOT paying 80% of the project costs. The City will be responsible for contributing 20% of the total costs with the estimated total cost of \$284,002 and a more detailed estimate will be reflected closer to the actual construction time. The City will be responsible for 100% of the costs to install and/or repair the curb ramps at all necessary intersections to ensure compliance with American Disabilities Act, said Ms. Havenar.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the patching that was done on Sunset & High Streets. Ms. Havenar stated this is part of the repairs that were done when the water main broke recently, but they will not be able to fix it completely until the weather breaks.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-15-12

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-15-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-15-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-16-12

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with LJB, Inc. for the Engineering Design for the Commercial Street Corridor Bike Route Project

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated the City Commission approved the submission of the Garnsey Street/Commercial Street Corridor Bike in June of 2011, and requests for proposals were sent out to four consultants. City Planner Chris Schmiesing and Ms. Havenar reviewed the qualifications of the four bids and selected LJB, Inc. as the designer for the project.

Commissioner Vogt stated on the MVRPC spreadsheet it allows \$48,000 for design and you are asking \$75,000 now why? Ms. Havenar explained this is a scope that we have to turn in, that was turned in 2009, and was just an estimate. We like to keep it low because consultants see this as well and we don't want to go into a job with the consultants vying for the work thinking we have an unlimited budget.

Commissioner Martin asked how the bike route would proceed on Commercial Street. Ms. Havenar stated they will keep all the construction within the existing right-of-way and will utilize the entire right-of-way on Commercial Street.

Commissioner Terry asked if a bike lane would be added or would they just be using the street on South Wayne and Garnsey streets for example. Ms. Havenar showed several slides with a layout of the bike path route. The route will start at the Great Miami River Recreational Trail behind the Street Department and will utilize a short portion of Clark Avenue and Wayne Street, and will continue on Commercial Street past Wood Street, and connect into the existing bike path. This project also provides a bike lane from the Commercial/Roosevelt/College intersection west along Garnsey Street and continues up to Mote Park.

Commissioner Vogt asked if it would be necessary to purchase the property on Wood Street to complete the bike path, or does the City already own the property? Ms. Havenar stated it is not City property, but have had talks with the Church that owns the property. We are looking at whether or not we would purchase the property or just sign a long-term lease.

Commissioner Martin stated he thought the original plan was to go straight down Garnsey Street. Ms. Havenar stated that was the original plan to come up behind Bennett School. But after looking at the redevelopment opportunities at the Power Plant it made more sense to connect with the growth of the Power Plant.

Commissioner Terry asked how the Bike Path would be connected to the existing Bike Path? Ms. Havenar explained they don't have the design yet, that is something they will work out with the Consultant to locate the best route.

Commissioner Wilson asked if they anticipate a bike lane in the street that would be replacing existing parking anywhere on a public street where a bike lane is being planned? Ms. Havenar stated parking will not be an issue on Commercial Street, it will be on an existing roadway and will be a shared use lane with markings stating bikers are permitted to be on there as well as motor vehicles. One of the reasons for not going down Garnsey Street was the parking issue, stated Ms. Havenar.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-16-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-16-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-16-12 adopted.

City Manager's Report

Economic Development Update – Mr. Bill Murphy

City Manager Huff gave a brief Economic Development Update , stating Mr. Murphy is away at conference.

City Manager Huff stated the City received some exciting news as the City of Piqua was selected by the Dayton Development Coalition to house the Entrepreneurial Signature Program (ESP) for the Northern Dayton Region including Miami, Auglaize, and Shelby counties.

This program actually focuses on resources and efforts on commercializing and funding Dayton region companies with aerospace propulsion and power, advance materials and advance manufacturing, situational awareness and surveillance systems, sensors and automation, medical imaging technologies, and software for business and healthcare. If the DDC receives this funding as they are anticipated to do, the City will be receiving a \$50,000 sub-grant, which will help with Economic Development in Piqua by having the additional resources to help existing business.

Grow Piqua Now has received about 74% of the membership dues, with a lot of the costs supported by private business with a goal this year of \$50,000.

The City of Piqua recently met with the Miami County Convention & Visitors Bureau and other municipalities and organizations with the intent to participate in a countywide branding initiative. This would increase tourism and economic development within the county and is a great opportunity for the City of Piqua as the branding will be available at a much lower cost. Mayor Fess asked City Manager Huff to explain what branding is. City Manager Huff explained.

The Piqua Arts Council, Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Piqua are working together to hold "First Night Piqua" to be held New Years Eve 2012. This is an alcohol free family oriented New Years Eve celebration planned for the downtown area from 6:00 P.M. to 12:00. This is a great tourism event for the City of Piqua.

Engineering and Public Works Department Update – Amy Havenar

City Engineer Amy Havenar presented highlights on some of the projects they are working on.

- E. Ash Street Project. The City is asking the support of the local businesses during the project and will have a full time project manager on site if anyone has any questions. Bob Graeser is the Project Manager and can be reached at the Engineering Department.
- Street Signage Plan. City has purchased a reflective measuring machine, and will be going out and measuring the reflectivity of all signs. The City must be in compliance by January of 2015.
- Parks Department-Signs of the Past. Signs of the Past signs have been installed and the newest one is the Atomic City Sign installed near the Dome on Bridge Street in front of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This sign highlights the Nuclear Power Plant with a timeline of all the events there, and this particular timeline goes as far out as 2018. Ms. Havenar stated the signs are courtesy of the French Oil Mill Machinery Co, and thanked them for providing the signs to the City.

- Tree Committee Academy. Mayor Fess, City Manger Huff, and City Engineer Havenar attended the graduation ceremony of Bob Graeser the City Urban Forester, and Melissa Reed from the Tree Commission. Both graduated from the Tree Commission Academy and presented a very enlightening design project, which really reflects well on the City of Piqua.
- Tree Planting. Bob Graeser is working with the Upper Valley Career Center along with Instructor Jim Metz who helped last year with the tree plantings on Nicklin Avenue. This year they will be helping with tree pruning at the Municipal Golf Course and help with the removal of Ash trees. This project would not be possible without the support of this group and Mr. Metz. The students are able to work in an environment where they can learn the trade and in return the City receives the benefits of the maintenance and pruning. The City is very excited about this collaboration as Mr. Metz also volunteers his services and services of his class when the City of Piqua has some type of weather event and need help.

Commissioner Wilson stated when they talked about having these department updates he was under the understanding the department would tell something that the public did not know about the department that might be interesting. One of things he thought might be of interest to the citizens is how far out the city has to start planning for a large street project like Ash Street? Ms. Havenar stated the Ash Street project was started about six years ago. The MVRPC is working on funding for other projects at this time for 2017 & 2018.

Mayor Fess stated the Tree Academy graduation was a very nice event and congratulated Bob Graeser and Melissa Reed. Kyle Kirschner, an employee of the Forest Hill Union Cemetery also graduated from the Tree Academy and congratulated him on his graduation.

Public Comment

This is an opportunity for citizens to address the City Commission regarding issues or to provide information. Comments are requested to be limited to five (5) minutes and specific questions should be addressed to the City Manager's office."

No one came forward to speak at this time.

Commissioner Comment

City Manager Huff stated he has started a City Manager Blog and is asking citizens to follow and respond to it. As a result of the new Blog City Manager Huff was asked to do an interview with Channel 2 on "What is Happening in Piqua" which aired on Tuesday, February 7, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.

The City of Piqua now has a licensed Miami County District Social Worker in the Health Department two days a month. Jennifer Zapadka works with Piqua families providing home visits and health assessments and other valuable resources. This will be a great asset and resource for our citizens and encouraged them to utilize her services.

The State of the City Address will be presented on March 1, 2012 in the City Commission Chambers at 8:00 A.M. The very first 2011 annual operations report will also be available.

Mayor Fess stated she was able to see the report on Channel 2 with City Manager Huff at 5:00 P.M. City Manager Huff did a wonderful job on presenting Piqua.

Commissioner Wilson stated he was happy to hear the Piqua Compassion Network presentation; further stating it is a very important program, and encouraged citizens to volunteer their time and services.

Commissioner Terry congratulated Duane Bachman on receiving the Order of George Award recently.

Commissioner Vogt congratulated Allen Dock on his twenty-four years of service to the City of Piqua.

Mayor Fess congratulated both Allen Dock and Duane Bachman. Mayor Fess stated she and City Manager Huff attend a Poverty Simulation held by the Piqua Compassion Network, and it was very enlightening experience.

Adjournment to Executive Session

To consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:35 P.M. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Fess, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to adjourn from the Executive Session at 8:57 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:58 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Lucinda L. Fess, Mayor

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION