

MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
April 12, 2012
7:30 P.M.
201 WEST WATER STREET
PIQUA, OHIO 45356

Piqua City Commission met in a Work Session at 7:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers in the Municipal Government Complex, 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Fess called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Also present were Commissioners Vogt, Wilson, and Martin. Absent: Terry. Also present Directors and Managers, Dave Burtner, Amy Havenar, Amy Welker, Cynthia Holtzapple, Bill Murphy, Stacy Wall, Chris Schmiesing, and City Manager Gary Huff. Ruth Koon and Lorna Swisher. Numerous citizens were also in attendance.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to excuse Commissioner Terry from the April 12, 2012 Piqua City Commission Work Session. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, fess, Vogt, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Work Session Discussion

Canal Place Master Plan

City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated the area in the rear of the 300 Block of Main Street from Ash Street to W. High Street will be the focus of the Canal Place improvements. There are several places in the area that the concrete is raising up and causing some potential hazards. MainStreet has stepped up to the plate and is spearheading the project to replace Mr. Schmiesing introduced Ruth Koon and Lorna Swisher of MainStreet Piqua.

This is a combined project of Mainstreet Piqua, the Canal Place property owners, the Stormwater Utility Department, and the City Electric Department for a projected cost of \$21,000.

Ruth Koon and Lorna Swisher of MainStreet Piqua presented a brief overview of the Canal Place Master Plan. Canal Place was established in 1971 and consists of concrete blocks and cement planters. Over the years the Canal Place cement blocks have started to rise up causing a potential tripping hazard.

Mainstreet Piqua is seeking private contributions to help offset the costs, plus have also submitted several grant applications. The project has been sent out for bids and is expecting quotes back by May 11.

The plan includes rain gardens that will collect the water coming off the buildings on the east side of the 300 block and will be directed into the planting areas that will be filled with native plants and a tree. The look will mirror the rain gardens on Water Street between main and Wayne streets.

There was discussion of the plantings that would be installed and the stormwater plan that will use the rain gardens.

City Manager Huff stated they would continue to search for grants.

It was stated this is Phase I of the Canal Place Master Plan project and Phase II will be to raise funds to purchase new furniture for the area.

Transportation Committee Action

City Planner Chris Schmiesing explained the Transportation Committee was formed about three months ago, and involves a number of city staff. The purpose of the Transportation Committee is review citizens concerns with respect to public transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to streets, highways, sidewalks, bike trails, etc. Make committee findings; propose plans and recommendations to the City Manager, the City Commission, and other public parties of interest regarding public transportation facilities, and to assist in informing the public of transportation issues within the City. Mr. Schmiesing gave a few examples of the some issues the Transportation Committee has recommended. Some of the issues include concern about traffic signalizations at certain streets, parking spaces interfering with crosswalks, and eliminations of certain turning lanes to make traffic flow better. It was noted that if citizens brought concerns to the city the Transportation Committee would review and make their findings available to the citizens who brought the concern to the Committee.

A question regarding the change in the speed limit on Park Avenue was raised. City Engineer Amy Havenar stated the signs are up and there will be flags on them to draw attention to the lower 25 MPH speed limit on Park Avenue, and would go into effect on April 16, 2012.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street voiced his concern on why he believes Mound Street should be changed to a one-way street. There was discussion of the number of accidents at the corner of Main and Mound Street. Ms. Havenar explained a traffic study was conducted for a short period of time at that location, and stated they found a lot of people were using Mound Street as a shortcut to avoid the traffic light. Ms. Havenar further explained the criteria for making a street one-way.

Chadwick Estates Sewer Service

City Manager Gary Huff stated the City of Piqua received a request from the owner of the Chadwick Estates, located on State Route 66 to provide sanitary sewer to the property.

Law Director Stacy Wall gave a brief history of the property, noting some of the problems associated with the property over the years.

Health and Sanitation Director Amy Welker provided background information on the property citing some the health and sanitation problems that have occurred at the Chadwick Estates.

Utilities Director Dave Burtner also provided information received from the Environmental Protection Agency, explaining the reason they are requesting Chadwick Estates install sewer on their property. It was stated that the property owner has received several notices over the last eight years to comply with the request to install a sewer system. At this time the EPA has given notice to the property owner that they only have two options. Install a complete Water Treatment Plant, or close the property down. It was stated the cost to install a Water Treatment Plant on their property would be very costly.

Mayor Fess stated that the property owner is agreeable to annex into the city at this time, but the city has the option to deny the annexation. With the numerous problems at the location, the city does not want to burden city services with more problems by annexing the property.

Law Director Stacy Wall explained the legal issues if the property is annexed, and or if the city chooses not to annex them into the City at this time.

Cemetery Superintendent Jim Roth stated there is a lot of litter and debris and miscellaneous cars and parts of vehicles around the property, and along State Route 66. A lot of the debris ends up blowing into the Cemetery. Mr. Roth stated he has contacted Miami County Health Department regarding the problems but nothing seems to get taken care of.

Jim Cruse, Co Rd, 25-A voiced his opinion about the situation and what he feels should be done concerning the annexing of the Chadwick Estates.

Mayor Fess asked if the City Commission could voice their concern to the Miami County Health Department concerning the problems at Chadwick Estates in an official letter. Ms. Welker stated that Miami County Health Department has different interpretations on the level of code enforcement than what the City of Piqua Health Department has.

Mayor Fess stated she would like to get some direction from the Commissioners on what they would like to do. After discussion Mayor Fess further stated she is hearing from the Commissioners that they are not in favor of extending the sanitary sewer to Chadwick Estates at this time. The Commission asked City Manager Huff to send a letter to the property owner stating the City of Piqua does not desire to annex the Chadwick Estates, and therefore, the connection to the city's sanitary sewer system is denied.

City Manager Huff stated he would send a letter to the owner stating the City of Piqua has no interest in providing connection to the sanitary sewer system to Chadwick Estates.

City Manager Huff stated he would like to set a special City Commission Work Session to be held on Thursday April 26, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. to discuss and review the Joint Water Study before the regularly scheduled Work Session of May 10, 2012.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the City Commission Work Session at 8:45 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Vogt. Nay, None.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION