

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday June 5, 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 Martin, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: Vogt.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin to excuse Commissioner Vogt from the June 5, 2012 Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION – Mr. Jim Oda/Ms. Lorna Swisher  
1913 Flood Committee Activity/Tourism Committee Efforts**

Jim Oda gave a brief update on the various programs and plans the 1913 Flood Committee have been working on recently. Lorna Swisher gave a brief overview on some of the new ideas they are working on to encourage more tourism in the City of Piqua.

**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the May 15, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting of May 15, 2012. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Fess, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**RES. NO. R-90-12**

A Resolution authorizing the payment of funds not to exceed \$104,040 to Brownfield Restoration Group, LLC for the work being completed in accordance with the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant received by the Board of Commissioners of Miami County, Ohio and certifying funds are available for the expenditure.

Community Development Director Bill Lutz explained in 2011 The Board of County Commissioners received a grant in excess of \$1.4 million to remediate, demolish structures and develop a new park behind the City's power plant at 919 S. Main Street. The County was approached on the City's behalf since the City could not legally be the applicant. Collaboratively, the City and the County requested qualification statements from firms for the Certified Professional Services required by the grant. Brownfield Restoration Group, LLC was adjudicated to be the most qualified firm for the project.

Mr. Lutz further explained the actual contract for the services must be between the grantee (the County) and the service provider (Brownfield Restoration Group, LLC). The County does not have the resources to forward the funds and wait for reimbursement from the state. Through a cooperative agreement between the City and the County, the City will pay the vendor, request payment from the County, and the County will receive the payment and then reimburse the City.

Resolution No. R-90-12 certifies that funds are available and will allow the city to pay for the services and be reimbursed. The budgeted amount is \$104,040 and that is what will be paid and then the City will be reimbursed by the County with the funds coming from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund-Received Grant, stated Mr. Lutz.

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of the funds and how they are to be paid back.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-90-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-90-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-90-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-91-12**

A Resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation Program Application for fiscal year 2012

Community Development Director Bill Lutz explained each year the community receives an allocation from the Ohio Department of Development to implement local activities funding through the Community Development Block Grant program. The allocation for fiscal year 2012 is \$95,000. Projects were solicited from city staff and two projects were received. The first project proposes to purchase and demolish the commercial structure located at 650 Wood Street, the property located at the point of Gordon, Wood and Covington Avenue. The second project will vacate the right of way of Wood Street between Gordon Street and Covington Avenue. Both projects will be supported by the \$95,000. It was noted that a certain percentage of the grant pays for required fair housing and administrative expenses. The City will receive grant agreements later this fall and will work to implement the program throughout 2013, and the projects must complete both projects by December 31, 2012.

Question were raised concerning the taking down of the structure located on the point at Covington, Wood and Gordon Streets, if the property owners were notified of the intent of the vacation, and parking for the homes in the area in question. City Manager Huff stated this is all still in the preliminary stages and will be asking for public input.

**Public Comment**

Jean Franz, a member of the Southview Neighborhood Association came forward stating she would definitely like to see the structure come down that is located on the point at Covington Avenue and Wood Street, and believes the traffic pattern can be worked out to accommodate the traffic and the residents.

Cindy Pearson, 701 Wood Street, voiced her concern over the truck traffic in the area, further stating there are a lot of rentals with small children along that area. Ms. Pearson also voiced concern over the traffic with parking on one side of the street.

Linda Stout, 118 Gordon Street, voiced her concern over a residence in the area that has had several problems, with the City Health Department coming out numerous times to investigate.

Russ Fashner, Forest Avenue, voiced his concern over the traffic issues that could occur with the trucks traveling on Covington Avenue.

Bill Shinall, New Haven Rd. came forward and voiced his opinion on taking down the structure at the Covington Avenue and Wood Street point. Mr. Shinall inquired if it would be possible for another business to locate on the property, and if so would there be any problems with the traffic.

It was mentioned that it might be possible to provide a cul-de-sac for the residents along Wood Street that would be affected with the change in the traffic pattern. City Manger Huff stated Resolution No. R-91-12 is just approving the application for the funding, and more detailed information would follow if the application is funded.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-91-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Wilson, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-91-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-92-12**

A Resolution of Appreciation for the public service of Clayton Lee as a City Employee

Mayor Fess read the proclamation and publicly thanked Mr. Lee for his dedicated service to the citizens of Piqua. Mr. Lee was unable to attend.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-92-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-92-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-92-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-93-12**

A Resolution of Intent to vacate public right-of-way

Law Director Stacy Wall explained the property owner has requested to vacate a portion of Fountain Boulevard and Lake Street that is effectively an extension of the front lawn of his property and the neighboring property.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-93-12.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-93-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-93-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-94-12**

A Resolution fixing the time and place for a Public Hearing on the Proposed City Tax Budget for Miami County for the Calendar Year 2013 and Draft Appropriation Ordinance

Finance Director Cindy Holtzapple explained Resolution No. R-94-12 is just setting a public hearing for the proposed city tax budget at the regular City Commission Meeting of June 19, 2012. The budget summary will be submitted at that time.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-94-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-94-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Terry, Fess and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-94-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-95-12**

A Resolution awarding a contract for the purchase of Ornamental Street lights for the Power System

Nick Berger, Electrical Engineer, explained the Power System released an Invitation for Bid packet for ornamental streetlights on April 30, 2012. Bids were received from six vendors on May 15, 2012 that included streetlights for three budgeted downtown streetscaping projects. The East Ash Street Road Widening would require 40 light poles, the Canal Street Streetscaping would require 2 streetlight poles, and the Wayne Street Streetscaping would require 9 streetlight poles. Each pole will have 4 banner arms, a flagpole holder, and a weatherproof receptacle. The poles were specified to closely match the downtown ornamental streetlights, with the lowest bid received from All-Phase Electric Supply Co. in the amount of \$166,900. The 2012 Power System's budget has allocated \$204,000 for all three downtown streetscaping projects, and this is under the budgeted amount, said Mr. Berger.

There was discussion on the height of the poles, and if LED lights would be installed in the new streetlights.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-95-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-95-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Terry, Fess, Wilson, and Martin Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-95-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-96-12**

A Resolution authorizing a sublease of Canal Land to Vectren Energy Delivery for the purpose of installing new gas lines

Law Director Stacy Wall explained the City entered into a Master Lease for the canal with the State of Ohio on March 30, 1926 for a period of 99 years. The Master Lease permits the City of Piqua to enter into subleases for the canal in the right-of-way. Vectren Energy Delivery requested that they be granted a sublease of the canal land for the purpose of continuing its gas line infrastructure replacement program in the downtown area east of Main Street, between the Miami River and going south to Water Street. The sublease between the City of Piqua and Vectren Energy Delivery also requires approval by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and said Department is aware of the request for the sublease, stated Ms. Wall.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-96-12.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-96-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-96-12 adopted.

**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.

Russ Fashner, Forest Avenue, Northparks Neighborhood Association President came forward and gave a brief update on some of the things happening in the Northparks area. A new fence has been installed at Kiwanis Park, the grass at the old hospital building has been mowed and Mr.

Fashner thanked all who helped. Mr. Fashner further encouraged citizens to clean up –pick up and mow their grass, and to get involved in their own neighborhood associations. The Northparks Neighborhood meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month and all residents are welcome, stated Mr. Fashner.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Fashner for his comments and encouraged citizens to get involved with their own Neighborhood Associations.

City Manager Huff also encouraged citizens to get out and get involved, as more citizens get involved the better the community becomes.

City Manager Huff announced the Next Door Program is a Community Tool program, and explained it is a way for the neighborhoods to work together within the community. Mayor Fess stated it is very important in these times since city staff is limited in what they can do as the staff is limited to. City Manager Huff has done a great job in bringing in all these helpful programs.

Mayor Fess stated another Citizens Government Academy is scheduled to begin in September, and sign ups will begin in July. Mayor Fess further stated she has heard nothing but raves about the academy, and the participants have truly enjoyed learning about the various City Departments and the jobs they perform.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street, came forward stating he is attending the current Citizens Government Academy and it has been a very rewarding and informative experience. Mr. Boehringer further stated he did not realize the City had some of the most dedicated and passionate employees you could ask for, and the Commissioners should be very proud of them. Mr. Boehringer encouraged citizens to sign up for the next Citizens Government Academy. Mayor Fess stated they do appreciate all the hard work and dedication of the City employees.

Connie Cool, Park Avenue, came forward stating she is currently a member of the Citizens Academy and when she started the program she was not very high on Piqua, but stated she is now! Ms. Cool went on to say she is thrilled about the progress being made on the old hospital property as it is located across from her home. Ms. Cool stated all of the city employees seem to be happy working for the city and doing what they do, and are all doing a great job. City Manager Huff is headed in the right direction with all of the programs and progress he has made in Piqua, said Ms. Cool.

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place, stated she is thrilled that the Shelter at Mote Park and the Mote Park building are being utilized quite a bit this summer so far, especially with the installation of the new air conditioning in the Mote Park building. The Southview Neighborhood Association has purchased a double grill and two eight foot benches for the shelter, and is working with the city on playground equipment for Mote Park. Ms. Franz announced she has adopted the Mote Park Sign area and has been working on getting the area cleaned up.

Mayor Fess thanked Ms. Franz for her dedication and hard work that she does all over the city,

### **City Manager's Report**

#### **Department Update-Elaine Barton, Human Resources**

Elaine Barton, Human Resource Director gave a brief update on Human Resources stating currently there are 187 fulltime employees and when she started 10 years ago there were 217 full time employees. Ms. Barton went on to explain the City of Piqua hiring process. Our current employees are very dedicated employees who do a lot of work for a lot less. Ms. Barton further stated she is very pleased to have had a part in the hiring of the new City Manager Gary Huff. Ms. Barton explained the process they went through to encourage Mr. Huff to come to Piqua.

City Manager Huff stated the city is involved in a summer internship program with the school districts and will have several students working twenty hours a week June through August in various departments throughout the City. City Manager Huff introduced Nathan Burkholder, who will be a senior at Piqua High School and will be working in the Administration area. Students must have a least a 3.5 grade point average to participate in the program, and Nathan has a 3.8 GPA, said City Manager Huff.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Martin reminded citizens not to blow their grass out into the street as it ends up in the stormwater system. Mr. Martin encouraged citizens to bag the grass and put it out for the refuse to take, or to mulch it.

Commissioner Martin also encouraged citizens to continue to recycle so less recyclables end up at the transfer station

Commissioner Wilson noted several community events that have taken place recently which include pack the Park, the St. Mary's Festival, and Taste of the Arts, and Mainstreet Piqua Brown Bag Lunch that will be taking place again every Thursday during the summer months on the plaza out in front of the Municipal Government Complex. Commissioner Wilson mentioned the problem that Miami County had regarding the alleged theft of County property and asked if the City had any policies regarding this in place in the City. City Manager Huff stated he has addressed the issue in the City of Piqua, and Finance Director Cindy Holtzapple further explained the policy that is in place in the City of Piqua.

City Manager Huff mentioned the PERFORM Initiative that will be announced at the next City Manager quarterly meeting to be held on June 13. This is a program dealing with organization culture for employees involving high ethics, honesty, team work, and general performance overall. PERFORM stands for Piqua Employees Reaching For More. This is the type of cultural the city would like to create, and sharing expectations in performance. Commissioner Wilson stated he is glad we have this type of system in place so we do not receive a telephone call telling us something is going on in the City.

Commissioner Terry congratulated Clayton Lee on his 25 years of service to the City of Piqua. Commissioner Terry stated again the Taste of the Arts was a lot of fun. Roy Howard mentioned to Commissioner Terry that he is having a problem with bed bug in some of his rentals as people are going through trash and bringing them into the apartments. Commissioner Terry discouraged citizens from going through trash that is setting out for pickup. Commissioner Terry thanked Jim and Kathy Burholtz for placing all of the flags donated by Kathy Henne along the boulevard on Nicklin Avenue for the Memorial Day weekend. City Manager Huff was the keynote speaker at the Veterans Memorial Service after the wonderful Memorial Day Parade. Commissioner Terry further stated Habitat for Humanity held a ground breaking recently on Orr Street with another one scheduled soon on Ann Street, and the hospital demolition project is proceeding nicely.

Mayor Fess thanked the VFW and Bruce Hogston for a wonderful Memorial Day Parade and ceremony again this year; further stating City Manager Huff gave a very meaningful speech.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 9:00 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Fess, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
REBECCA J. COOL  
CLERK OF COMMISSION



