

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday July 3, 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, Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: None

**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the June 19, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to approve the Minutes from the June 19, 2012 City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**ORD. NO. 19-12 (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

An Ordinance authorizing the Modification of the First Ward, Second Ward, Third Ward, Fourth Ward, and Fifth Ward Boundaries

Economic Development Director/ Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy stated Ordinance No. 10-12 authorizes the boundary modifications for the First Ward, Second Ward, Third Ward, Fourth Ward, and Fifth Ward. This is a result of Ordinance No. 3-10 adopted in March of 2010, which stated, "Redistricting of the wards shall occur every ten years using the census. The redistricting shall be based upon an equitable balance of population and shall commence with the 2010 census figures". This was voted upon as an amendment to Charter Section 3 at the November 2, 2010 General Election and approved by the electorate.

The City Commission met in a public work session on June 14, 2012 to review the information. Changes were recommended to the existing ward boundaries establishing an equitable distribution of the population, and recommends amending Chapter 11 of the City of Piqua Code of Ordinance to reflect the change in boundaries, stated Mr. Murphy.

Several questions were raised regarding when the redistricting would go into effect for voting, how it would affect candidates running for City Commission next year, and how will residents be notified of the change in their district if it applies to them? Law Director Stacy Wall explained she would notify the Board of Elections after it is approved; the Board of Elections will verify the boundary lines and the new boundaries will be in effect for the 2013 November election. The Board of Elections will notify the Precincts of any changes, stated Ms. Wall but she was not sure if they would send out individual notices. Public Notice of the approved Ordinance No. 10-12 will be published in the Piqua Daily Call after passage.

City Manager Huff stated a copy the current map and a copy of the new map with the boundary changes can be posted on the City web site for residents to check and see which ward they reside in now. Law Director Wall explained the redistricting is based upon the equitable population amongst the Wards and currently the wards are very uneven. The redistricting would allow for growth in each of the districts over the next ten years.

Ordinance No. 10-12 was given a first reading.

**RES. NO. R-100-12**

A Resolution to continue participation in a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in conjunction with the Miami County Emergency Management Agency

Fire Chief Mike Rindler explained the resolution allows the City of Piqua to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and is adopting the Miami County Plan. For communities to be eligible to receive pre and post disaster hazard mitigation funding the plan must be adopted, by resolution, and by the Commission, stated Chief Rindler.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-100-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to approve the Resolution No. R-100-12. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Fess, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-100-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-101-12**

A Resolution authorizing a contract for Cellular Service

Dean Burch Information Technology Director stated the City of Piqua has been using Nextel cell phones since 2001, and were recently notified they are being phased out in 2013. Nextel was chosen primarily because of the Direct Connect feature they offered, which was not offered by other vendors. As a result of the Nextel City departments were able to stop using City radios and employees were supplied cell phones.

Quotes were received from Nextel, Sprint, and Verizon, and after reviewing the plans, terms, and equipment Verizon Wireless was chosen. The Verizon proposal offers several attractive options, no mandatory contract length, can add and remove phones on a month-to-month basis with no penalty or increase, and equipment refresh every ten months. The city will be able to stay up to date with technology as it changes, stated Mr. Burch. The Police Department will be utilizing the new Smartphones due to the ability to condense so many functions into one device that currently requires multiple devices.

There was discussion on the problems the City had encountered during the recent storm with the current telephone system. City Manager Huff stated they had difficulty in communicating between the departments and the directors, and are looking forward to the new phones.

**Public Comment**

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place came forward stating she has been a Verizon customer for the past eighteen years and has found them to always be reliable.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-101-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Wilson, Fess, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-101-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-102-12**

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police (Civilians), Ohio Labor Council, Inc.

Law Director Stacy Wall explained the resolution would allow the FOP Clerical Unit to add to their Collective Bargaining Agreement the Health Reimbursement Plan that all of the unions have been given. The City is participating in health incentives to help reduce health insurance premiums. This allows the employee to receive reimbursement of up to \$400 for a Family Plan back to into their

Health Savings, and up to \$200 for a Single Plan. This is an extremely small union and only affects one employee at this time, stated Ms. Wall.

### **Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-102-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-102-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Fess, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-102-12 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.

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place, expressed her appreciation to all of the City employees, stating for only being without power in the City of Piqua for three hours was wonderful. Many of the surrounding communities were without power for days, not just a few hours. This was due in part to all of the dedicated City employees who put in many extra hours, not only the power system but all of the departments.

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

Law Director Wall stated the City of Piqua received "The Standard of Excellence Award" from the Miami Valley Risk Management Association for having an outstanding safety record for loss in the year 2011. There are 20 members and Piqua is one of them. In order to be eligible the member must have less than \$100 per employee in losses with Piqua receiving the award based on an average of only \$9 per employee in losses. Mayor Fess thanked all of the employees for taking good care of themselves.

City Manager Huff stated he wanted to talk about the unusual storm that occurred recently. The City of Piqua lost all four electric feeds coming into the City during the storm. The Power System employees worked very hard to restore the power, along with some mutual aid, and all of the other City Departments worked together to get the City back in order in a very short period of time. City Manager Huff complimented all of the city employees for their dedication and the tremendous effort put forth to clean up the city. Mr. Huff explained he was asked why they did not turn on the Gas Turbines, and he gave a brief explanation on the reason they were not utilized. Mayor Fess stated she understood it was not the City Power System that was down, but it was the feed that comes into the city from DP & L that was down. Mayor Fess further stated she has heard several comments from citizens on the short a period of time the City of Piqua was without power and how fortunate they were when looking at other communities close by that were without power for great lengths of time. City Manager Huff stated he is very proud of all of the City of Piqua Employees. Mayor Fess stated the City Commission also thanks the employees for a job well done.

City Manager Huff stated the Dayton Business Journal also recognized the City of Piqua with the "Healthiest Employee Award" with only 12 cities receiving this award.

City Manager Huff stated he would like to cancel the previously scheduled City Commission Work Session on July 12 if all the Commissioners are in agreement. The City Commission has scheduled a Strategic Planning Retreat on July 14, 2012. It was noted that all Commissioners were in agreement to cancel the July 12, City Commission Work Session.

City Manager Huff stated he requested at the last work session that a decision be made on the status of the Water Plant in July. The costs have not changed as far as the options in going into a joint facility with the City of Troy, or building our own Water Treatment Plant. The projections for a new Water Treatment Plant would be approximately \$36.1million and for the joint operation it

would be about \$32.5 million, those are the same numbers as received previously nothing has changed. The decision does not require legislation; it is a decision of direction on which way the City Commission would like the City to proceed.

Mayor Fess stated she believes the Commission is ready to give direction at this time.

Mayor Fess further stated there was a letter to the editor in the Piqua Daily Call recently stating that if we did not build the new Water Plant then it might be possible to give raises to the city employees. Mayor Fess explained how the Water Funds must be utilized in the Water Department and cannot be used for raises for the employees regardless if the City does not go forward with building a new Water Treatment Plant. As of this contract year each of the Unions will have received three 0 raises since 2007, stated City Manager Huff. Mayor Fess commented the Administrative staff has gone five years without a raise, and stated she just wanted to clarify that at this time. Law Director Wall stated the AFSCM contract is still open and has not been finalized yet.

Commissioner Vogt stated when he and Commissioner Patrizio were elected they were given a tour of all of the city facilities, and at that time the Water Plant was doing a good job. However within three years of that time the EPA condemned the Water Plant. The city was given a time frame in which to either fix the problems or build a new Water Treatment Plant. If the problems are not completed the EPA would start issuing daily fines until the problems were taken care of. A few years ago it was mentioned to approach the City of Troy, and at that time the City of Troy did not want anything to do with the City of Piqua. Now for some reason Troy is very much interested in a joint venture with the City of Piqua, as they now have a forty-year old plant that will need repairs and updates soon to. Commissioner Vogt stated why not build our own Water Plant and have an asset for the City of Piqua instead of being part owner of a forty-year old plant that will need updates in the near future. If we take care of the new water plant as well as we have the current plant, it will probably last a lot longer than forty years, and the City will not have to worry about the EPA for quite a long time. This is an opportune time for the City of Piqua to move forward and build their own Water Treatment Plant, stated Commissioner Vogt,

Commissioner Martin stated he previously asked the City Manager for a breakdown of the cost to build a new Water Treatment Plant. At that time the cost was stated to be about \$21 million, and now it is going to be about \$36.1. But the cost to build the plant itself has not changed since the first figures were quoted; just some of the figures for the outside work like the infrastructure are now roughly about \$10 million. Commissioner Martin stated he just wanted to provide that information in light of all of the questions he has been receiving on the change in the costs to build the new water plant.

Commissioner Wilson indicated he is in favor of building a new Water Treatment Plant, and stated he believes a vote should be taken at this time. Commissioner Wilson further stated all the citizens that have contacted him were in favor of building a new Water Plant as there are too many uncertainties with going in with the City of Troy at this time.

Commissioner Terry also stated she is in favor of building a new Water Treatment Plant. Commissioner Terry commented that she is a little disappointed that a Regional Plant could not be worked out with the City of Troy. Commissioner Terry believes there is not that much difference in the cost between building a new plant and going with the City of Troy, but in the end the City of Piqua will have their own asset.

Mayor Fess also agreed there are too many unknowns at this time that left her feeling uncomfortable in going forward with the joint venture with the City of Troy. In talking with many of the residents Mayor Fess stated they have expressed they do not want the City of Piqua to give up control of our destiny as far as the water is concerned. Mayor Fess stated in the end the City of Piqua will have a brand new facility as an asset instead of being a part owner of a forty-year old water treatment plant. Mayor Fess would like to move forward at this time with the building of a new Water Treatment Plant.

## **Public Comment**

John Owsiany, 3133 Shawnee Trail came forward stating he sent the City Commissioners a letter requesting they look at the economic issues of building a new plant versus going with Troy in a joint venture more closely. At the last Commission Meeting Mr. Owsiany said he thought City Manager Huff stated Troy had reduced the buy in by \$7.5 million, and the cost was also reduced and that was the reason for his correspondence to the Commission. City Manager Huff explained that if the costs were reduced the city would only be receiving 25% ownership and would not have any controlling interest in the water rates. The City really never got a response from the City of Troy, on the 25% amount either, stated City Manager Huff.

Commissioner Vogt stated the city would want to have half ownership of the plant so that the City would have equal votes on the Board. A Board would be set up that would have equal members, along with a non-bias member so that each city would have control of their own destiny. But with the lower percentage of ownership in the future Troy could just about cut us off if we did not enter into this joint venture as equal partners, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Mayor Fess explained that if the city went in with the City of Troy in a joint venture of 50% each would control their own rates, but if we went in with only 25% the assets the City of Piqua would have no control over the water rates and etc.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and voiced his opinion on the reason for building a new Water Treatment Plant, further stating he is in favor of the City of Piqua building their own plant at this time.

Mayor Fess stated she believes what she is hearing at this time is that the City Commissioners thoughts are to move forward and build a new Water Treatment Plant. Commissioner Vogt stated he feels the Commission should make a motion to direct the City Manager to move forward with the building of a new Water Treatment Plant at this time.

Commissioner Vogt made a motion to vote to move forward at this time to give the City Manager direction to proceed with the plans to build a new Water Treatment Plant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Fess, Terry, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess asked that City Manager Huff move forward with the plans for building a new Water Treatment Plant.

## **Economic Development Update – Bill Murphy**

Mr. Murphy provided at brief six-month update on the Economic Development.

Two major projects were announced Hartzell Air Movement (\$6.5 million) and Industry Products Company (\$3.4 million), worked with DDC and Jobs Ohio to secure over \$450,000 in Job Creation Tax Credits, currently working with a local company on a \$3.5-\$4.5 million capital investment.

Announced a new retail store (Rue 21) would be opening in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center, plans have been received for the New Buffalo Wings & Rings to be located at the Miami Valley Centre Mall, and the City and GPN will partner on a new retail recruitment effort in 2013 with Buxton.

Two local companies were recognized recently French Oil Mill Machinery received an E Star Award, and Industry Products received a Honda Supplier Award being only 1 of 50 recipients out 600 suppliers.

Mr. Murphy attended the IDEC Leadership Forum in January, the Roundtable in the Rockies in March, Automotive Consultants Forum in April, Consultant Forum 13 in May, along with the MD & M/Plastic Trade Show in February, National Plastics Expo in April, AMI Food Expo in May, AWEA Wind Power in June, IEDC Federal Forum in March, DDC DC Community Fly-In in May.

The Piqua State of Economic Development was held in April and was attended by nearly 70 local and regional civic and business leaders. Reports were distributed to subscribers of the Piqua Daily Call and the Dayton Business Journal. This years report has been submitted for the IEDC & 3CMA awards.

The City has expanded their partnership with Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Hardin, Mercer, Miami and Shelby Counties, have a contract with the DDC to perform Jobs Ohio efforts in all of the counties with a budget of \$100-105K.

Mr. Murphy will attend the 3CMA Annual Meeting in September, IEDC Annual Meeting in September, Roundtable in the High Desert in October, and FabTech Trade Show in November.

Mr. Murphy also stated Grow Piqua Now sponsored an I Love Piqua video contest recently and the winners will be announced and be present at the July 17, Piqua City Commission Meeting. The first and second place winners will receive a check and the school of the top winner will also receive a check for their Audiovisual Department.

Mr. Murphy explained the Mid West Economic Competitive chart and how the City of Piqua was rated.

Other activities included information on the Wyndham Industrial Park,

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Wilson thanked all who took the time to voice their opinions on the Water Treatment Plant stating he appreciates all the comments he received. Commissioner Wilson thanked all of the City employees for their hard work and efforts during the recent storm as we take our city services for granted sometimes until they are not there. Commissioner Wilson stated he received a telephone call from a local resident who asked him to thank all of the employees for the wonderful job they did in getting the city back in shape so quickly in her neighborhood.

Commissioner Terry also thanked all of the City Departments for endless work and also the many people who worked together to help their neighbors who were in need of help. There were so many acts of kindness shown recently after the storm, stated Commissioner Terry.

Commissioner Terry reminded citizens to attend the activities at Fountain Park and enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Please remember to support the non-profit groups at the park, and to stay and enjoy the fireworks in the evening.

Commissioner Terry reminded citizens to patronize the Civic Band Concerts in the Hance Pavilion on Thursday evenings; it is such a wonderful place to listen to all the various types of music.

Commissioner Vogt commented look at the number of city employees we have on staff compared to other cities, and Piqua works with the limited amount of employees and does a great job. Commissioner Vogt thanked all of the employees for all of their dedication to the City of Piqua and its citizens.

Commissioner Vogt reminded citizens to support the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Association, and help the non-profit organizations raise money.

Commissioner Martin also thanked all of the employees for a doing a wonderful job, and encouraged citizens to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

Mayor Fess stated she spoke with several of the young people who are working in various City Departments. The students stated they are having so much fun and are excited to be working with the City of Piqua. Mayor Fess stated the little park off of High Street was one of the projects the students worked on and they had done a wonderful job as it has not had much attention in the previous years.

Mayor Fess reminded citizens to attend the various activities at Fountain Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and to support the non-profit organizations. Also on July 12 Mayor Fess stated she would be a guest conductor conducting a March for the Civic Band, and reminded citizens to come out for a wonderful evening of music.

Mayor Fess stated she wanted to thank City Manager Huff for his outstanding leadership during the recent storm, and a special thanks to all of our city employees who are the best of the best, who do it with dedication and passion for the City of Piqua.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:35 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Fess, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

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

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