

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday July 17, 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.

Presentation - Bill Murphy

I LOVE PIQUA VIDEO AWARDS

Assistant City Manager/Executive Director of Grow Piqua Now Bill Murphy gave a brief overview of the I LOVE PIQUA Project. Mr. Murphy asked Brad Dotson, Riley Branson, and Eli Lightner to come forward. Brad Dotson was the 1st Place winner of the I LOVE PIQUA contest and received an oversized check along with a check in the amount of \$200. Riley Branson was the 2nd Place winner and received an oversized check and a check in the amount of \$100. Eli Lightner of the Piqua High School Media Department accepted an oversized check and a check for \$100 for the Media Department. Mr. Murphy stated the project was really the brainchild of Mainstreet Executive Director Lorna Swisher and thanked her. The winning video was shown to the Commission and the attendees. Mr. Murphy thanked all who participated in the contest, stating they are already looking forward to next year.

Mayor Fess congratulated both of the winners and thanked all who participated.

Residence Pride Awards were presented to:

Scott & Gail Schulz	608 S. Wayne Street
Doug and Linda Morris	1607 Echo Lake Drive
Dick's Paint & Body Shop – Bob Jones	700 S. Roosevelt Avenue
Dan & Marcia Cavendar	1601 W. High Street
Barbara Miller	708 N. College Street

Pictures of the Residence Pride Award winner's homes were shown. Mayor Fess congratulated all of the Residence Pride winners on doing such a wonderful job in maintaining their homes in their neighborhoods and in the community.

Government Academy Graduates

John Berning	Vernice Maz
Bradley Boehringer	Gail McCreight
Connie Cool	Christine Miller
Ron Cool	Andy Monnin
James Cruse	Roger Petijean
Bob Fess	Janel Howery-Ranly
Roger Hartley	Mary Frances Rodriguez
Aaron Hemmert	Bethany Royer
Chad Hewitt	Stu Shear
Bruce Hogston	Kristy Warren
Gary Koenig	David Zimmerman

City Manager Gary Huff stated this is the first class of the Government Academy, and was a very special group. Mr. Huff further stated he has been doing Government Academies for a long time and this was the most enthusiastic and dedicated group of academy students he has ever been involved with. It was very beneficial to the Government Academy participants to learn about city government, and their participation was very beneficial to the city as the information they shared, stated City Manager Huff.

City Manager Huff introduced Community Development Director Bill Lutz, City Manager Huff thanked Mr. Lutz very much for all of his hard work with the Government Academy, as he volunteered to be the coordinator and did a fantastic job. Mr. Lutz received a round of applause from the Commissioners and the audience. City Manager Huff stated the next Government Academy session will begin in September and will run for 14 weeks instead of 11 weeks to be able to cover more information. Citizens can register on the City web site or by contacting the Mr. Lutz.

Mr. Lutz stated the graduates asked if they could all come up as a group. Kristy Warren came forward and presented the City with a certificate and a picture of the group taken at the Power Plant from the Government Academy participants. Ms. Warren stated each week they were treated to the most wonderful food, and as a thank you the group brought gift baskets of cookies for each of the participating departments that allowed them to visit. Ms. Warren further stated this was a wonderful first session of the Government Academy and they appreciated all the time City Manager Huff and Bill Lutz spent away from their families. Ms. Warren thanked all of them along with each of the city departments for all they did for the Government Academy participants over the past 11 weeks.

Each member of the Government Academy came forward as their name was called and City Manager Huff presented them with a Certificate for completing the first Government Academy.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward stating the Government Academy was a very rewarding experience for him and presented City Manager Huff with a photo album he had put together, which was signed by all of the participants. Mr. Boehringer also presented Mayor Fess with a copy of the certificate presented to the City.

Several of participants came forward to express their feelings about the first Government Academy and they included Gary Koenig, Mary Francis Rodriguez, Ron Cool, Connie Cool, and Kristy Warren. All of the participants were very supportive of the program and encouraged citizens to attend the next Government Academy session, and to get involved with the community and the city programs.

Bill Lutz stated he feels he is the luckiest employee in the City of Piqua because he was able to be a part of the Government Academy. Mr. Lutz also thanked all of the City Departments for their support as they all did an outstanding job. Mr. Lutz stated he had one final thought he wanted to leave the graduates with. Mr. Lutz stated the participants have such a base of knowledge now and encouraged them to use it for the good. Get involved with Boards and Commission and be the city's biggest fan, and go forth and spread the word!!!

Mayor Fess congratulated all of the participants and thanked them for being a part of the first Government Academy class and encouraged other citizens to participate. City Manager stated the participants of the first Government Academy intend to stay in touch and become an alumni group to offer further information in the future.

Commissioner Vogt congratulated all of the Government Academy participants stating he felt they all must of had a good time if they were staying late each session.

Commissioner Martin congratulated the participants, stating it is nice to find out how things actually work instead of the way you think they work.

Commissioner Terry congratulated the participants, and thanked them stating that some of the participants are already volunteering, and hope they will continue in the future to become involved with the city.

Commissioner Wilson stated when Mr. Huff said he was planning on doing a Government Academy for 11 weeks, he thought that was to long, but City Manager Huff was right as usual. Commissioner Wilson stated he hopes some of the graduates plan to run for City Commissioner sometime in the future, or set on one of the many Boards and Committees.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Consent Agenda

Approval of the minutes from the July 3, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to approve the Minutes from the July 3, 2012 City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

ORD. NO. 10-12 (2nd READING)

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

Law Director Stacy Wall stated this is the second reading for Ordinance No. 10-12 which 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". After the Ordinance is adopted it will be sent to the Board of Elections for them to verify the boundaries, and citizens will be voting in 2013 for the first time with the new changes in boundaries, stated Ms. Wall.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there is any way citizens can find out where they are located with the new changes. City Manager Huff stated they are working on setting up a way citizens can put their address in and it would show where they are located.

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

Ordinance No. 11-12

An Ordinance amending Section 77.01 – Traffic Schedules Adopted, Schedule II and Schedule IV of the Piqua Code, relating to through streets and four-way stop intersections pertaining to the Garbry Road/Looney Road intersection

City Engineer Amy Havenar explained this involves the intersection of Garbry Road and Looney Road as it has been identified by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVPC) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a "high crash location" within the City of Piqua. Since 2009 there have been 19 crashes reported at this intersection with 11 of them resulting in injuries. Seven of those crashes have occurred since January of 2012 with three resulting in injuries. The Transportation Committee voted unanimously at their June 28th meeting to recommend to the City Commission that this intersection be changed to a four-way stop intersection. Ms. Havenar asked if the Commission would consider waving the three reading rule to put the plan into action as soon as possible. Ms. Havenar further explained there is an action plan for a media blitz to notify citizens of the changes that will be occurring at the intersection. Stop ahead signs will be installed with flags on them to draw attention to the new changes at the intersection.

The only financial impact will be for the new stop signs and the new stop ahead signs which the City Sign Shop can make in-house, stated Ms. Havenar.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No, 11-12.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that the rule requiring Ordinance No. 11-12 be read fully and distinctly on three separate days be suspended. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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

RES. NO. R-103-12

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

City Manager Huff stated the petitioner desires to vacate the portion of unimproved public alley right of way adjacent to Inlots 3084 – 3088. The area is located between Hancock Avenue and Brice Avenue to be vacated is unimproved and does not appear to be necessary to the intended use of the affected right-of-way.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-103-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to approve the Resolution No. R-103-12. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-103-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-104-12

A Resolution awarding a contract to Walnut Grove Playgrounds for the purchase of park equipment at Mote Park at a cost not to exceed \$29,000.00.

Community Development Director Bill Lutz explained this was part of the 2011 Community Development Block Grant program and the city allocated \$29,000 for the installation of park equipment at Mote Park. City staff coordinated with the Southview Neighborhood Association on determining what type of equipment they wanted to have in the park. Requests for proposals were sent out and the City received eight proposals that were reviewed by the Southview Neighborhood Association and they identified the top three that were then reviewed by the City. Walnut Grove Playgrounds was the most responsive proposal since they kept their costs underneath the \$25,000 threshold, with the other two proposals both being over \$33,000. The City negotiated with Walnut Grove Playgrounds and was able to receive additional equipment within the \$29,000 budget, stated Ms. Havenar. Ms. Havenar gave a brief overview of the various pieces of new playground equipment being purchased.

Public Comment

Frank Barhorst, S. Wayne Street came forward and expressed his appreciation for the new playground equipment stating he is glad to see it finally happening, and urged Commissioners to pass the resolution.

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place came forward and expressed her appreciation for the new playground equipment stating she has been waiting for this for a long time. Ms. Franz further stated the new shelter is being used quite often and is a great asset to Mote Park.

Al Cooper, Park Board member, came forward stating the current slides and swings were there when he was a child, which has been quite a while. Mr. Cooper further stated this is the greatest thing for Mote Park, and would like to see it get done as soon as possible.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-104-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-104-12 adopted.

Mayor Fess thanked all of them for their patience, and stated the Southview Neighborhood Association has been doing an outstanding job not only with Mote Park, but also with all of the other projects they have worked on.

RES. NO. R-105-12

A Resolution authorizing preliminary legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the programming of the North Main Street Streetscape Project

City Engineer Amy Havenar explained this resolution would allow the City to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the programming of the North Main Street Streetscape Project. Currently the streetscape is on Main Street from Wood Street to Greene Street. The North Main Street Streetscape project would extend the streetscape design north to Riverside Drive to complete the streetscaping on the North Main Street Corridor. The project was awarded \$300,000 in funding from the MVRPC with the project scheduled for construction in 2016, but we have to get the project programmed with ODOT at this time, stated Ms. Havenar.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-105-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-105-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-105-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-106-12

A resolution acquiring the services of Power System Engineering, Inc. to provide Professional Engineering Service for the City

Electrical Engineer Nick Berger explained on June 29th, 2012 a storm came through the City of Piqua doing significant damage to the power system including a half mile transmission line that connected Sub 5 which is located on north 25-A to Sub 4 which is in the south end of town. Mr. Berger further explained the damage that was done, and stated they went out to nine different engineering firms to get bids for the repairs. After reviewing the bids it was determined that Power Systems Engineering was best suited to make the needed repairs.

Mayor Fess stated she had so many citizens tell her how much they appreciated how quickly the power was restored after the storm. Further stating other communities were without power for much longer periods of time and they appreciate all the work they do and how well they maintain the Power System.

City Manager Huff stated there was quite extensive damage done and fortunately the City is going to qualify for a FEMA reimbursement for the \$660,000 for repairs and overtime that was spent.

There were several questions regarding the reimbursement and the type of repairs that would be needed, and how the city would receive the funds. Mr. Berger explained how the city would be reimbursed and the necessary steps that will be taken to make the repairs.

Public Comment

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and asked if someone could explain the damage that was done during the storm, and what type of poles would they be replacing the damaged poles with. Mr. Berger gave a brief overview of the areas that received damage, and the type of poles they plan to use.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-106-12 is adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Vogt, Martin, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-106-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-107-12

A Resolution authorizing permission to conduct business with Silver Fox Logo Wear

Law Director Stacy Wall read the resolution as Rebecca J. Cool; Clerk of Commission recused herself from the Commission Chambers during the discussion and the vote on Resolution No. R-107-12 due to a conflict of interest. City Manager Huff explained the project was put out for bid and the lowest bid received was by a city employee. The employee, Rebecca Cool, has filed the required City Disclosure form indicating she has a direct interest in the company. There was no discussion by the Commission.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-107-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-107-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Martin, Fess, Vogt, and Wilson, Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-107-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-108-12

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Milton Township, Mahoning County, Ohio for the purchase of two 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol vehicles

Police Chief Jamison explained during the 2012 budget discussion the Police Department presented an option that would allow for the replacement of five police cruisers with used police cruisers. \$87,000 was authorized for the replacement of the five police vehicles. It was noted that they waited until mid-year to make the purchase to make sure revenues were staple enough to go forward with the purchases. One vehicle has already been purchased, and two 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol Vehicles have been located from Milton Township, Mahoning County. Chief Jamison gave a brief description of the equipment that is on the vehicles and stated the manufactures warranty is still in effect on both vehicles.

There was discussion on the cost of the changes in equipment, fuel consumption, and the type of signage that would need to be done on the new vehicles if purchased. Chief Jamison explained.

Public Comment

Connie Cool, Park Avenue came forward and inquired why Milton Township was disposing of the vehicles at this time? Chief Jamison explained Milton Township's replacement program and further stated they vehicles are still very good cars for the City of Piqua.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-108-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-108-12 adopted.

OTHER

Monthly Reports - May 2012

Monthly Reports were accepted.

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, stated Scott Schulz one of the Residence Pride winners was in the audience and wanted to recognize him.

Ron Cool, Park Avenue, came forward and asked if it would be possible to have under the City Managers Report information on the Ash Street Project, and the Power Distribution Project. City Manger Huff stated he would provide the up dates.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street, came forward to inquire about the North Main Street Streetscape Project. Mr. Boehringer stated he has been an advocate of making Mound Street a one-way street for some time now. Mr. Boehringer would like to know what could be done through the Streetscape Project to improve turning off of North Main Street onto Mound Street? Mayor Fess stated that is something that can be addressed at the time they do the design plans. City Manager Huff stated a Public Meeting will be held for citizens to receive their input, and that can be addressed at that time.

City Manager's Report

Community Development Department Update – Bill Lutz

Mr. Lutz gave a brief overview of Community Development and where it fits within the whole city organization. Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Bill Murphy heads the Development Department up. Underneath that there are three main areas, Economic Development, Community Development, and Planning and Zoning, explained Mr. Lutz.

There has been a lot of community engagement this year, the Government Academy, the INVOLVE Program, Nextdoor Program, Special Events Coordination, Resource Development, and scores of other funding that has been requested. The forming of the Piqua Neighborhood Improvement Incorporated, which is a tax-exempt organization that coordinates a lot of the neighborhood activities.

In 2011-2012 secured over \$4 million dollars in financial resources to focus on redevelopment. Mr. Lutz explained four of these programs

The city has been very successful in receiving Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) in the amount of \$2 million. Receiving \$ 1.4 Million working with Miami County to do the Phase 1 Power Plant Project, and worked with Miami County to receive \$500 thousand dollars for the County to work on the Moving Ohio Forward Program, and received \$50 thousand dollars from the Brownfield Action Planning Program.

Mr. Lutz gave a brief update on the Hospital Demolition Project to date. The project began on April 25, and is expected to be completed by October 25, 2012. The project consists of two phases; the first will be the remediation of the building followed by the demolition. Most of the remediation is occurring in the back of the structure and once completed the associated buildings will be ready for demolition. They include the former hospital building, a four-story concrete/brick façade structure with a partial basement and tunnel system approximately 150,000 square feet, a three-story administration building approximately 72,000 square feet, and the remains of the third

structure a concrete basement which use to be the power house which was accessible through a tunnel that was connected to the hospital estimated to be about 2,200 square feet.

The \$1.4 million received for the Power Plant Project is for cleanup behind the power plant area that consists of removing the metal and concrete structures and asphalt and constructing a new Riverfront Park.

The City of Piqua was only one of six communities in the State of Ohio to receive the \$50,000 from the Brownfield Action Planning Pilot Program, as this is a brand new program for the Department of Development, Mr. Lutz further explained. A Public information program is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, at 6:00 P.M. at the Plaza and Mr. Lutz encouraged residents to attend.

Moving Ohio Forward is a new program and Mr. Lutz explained how the City of Piqua would receive funding to help demolish vacant properties.

City Manager asked Mr. Lutz to explain the Nextdoor Program, which is a networking program for neighborhoods to keep in touch. Piqua is the first municipality in the State of Ohio to utilize this program stated City Manager Huff. This is just another way to continue to be innovative and creative in reaching out to the community, and helping the community communicate. We really feel strongly that communication between citizens and citizen's involvement engagement is the key to the success within the community, said City Manager Huff. Mr. Lutz stated after the storm last week he received a call from an elderly gentleman who needed some help with repairs. A call was placed to Nextdoor and several residents responded to help the elderly gentleman with his repairs. This is a really tool for help with communications in the neighborhoods, stated Mr. Lutz.

Commissioner Wilson asked how residents get a hold of someone if they do not have a computer. Mr. Lutz explained how they could be apart of the program.

City Manager explained the INVOLVE Program and encouraged neighbors to look out for each other and if someone needs assistance to call the INVOLVE program.

Mayor Fess stated all of the funds the city has received from grants would not have been possible without all of the hard work put forth by Bill Lutz in the writing of the grants. Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Lutz for all of his hard work.

City Manager Huff stated the Skate Park is under construction at Pitsenbarger Park. This should be completed by the end of summer all thanks to Rich Donnelly who donated all of the costs and is doing the project. We certainly owe him a lot, said City Manager Huff.

City Manager Huff also stated at the August 7th Commission Meeting the City would be presenting the first ever Community Partnership Awards. This program recognizes individuals, organizations, and business that have made contributions to Piqua Community over an extended period of time.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Vogt thanked the Government Academy participants, congratulated the I Love Piqua award winners, and the Residence Pride winners, stating they are all important to the City and set a good example for others to participate. Commissioner Vogt stated it is has been really hot and is a good time to go to the Municipal Pool, play Golf, or go to the Parks as the city has such nice facilities. The city and Commissioners Vogt and Martin will be hosting a Car Show on July 20, 2013 at Fountain Park, and have been able to secure the "Van Dells" to be the entertainment for the evening so mark your calendars, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Commissioner Martin reminded citizens to continue to recycle. Recycle bins can be obtained at the Utilities Department or the Health Department if residents are in need of one. Commissioner Martin also congratulated the twenty-two Government Academy graduates stating if they want to get involved they know how the different departments work together to run the city.

Commissioner Terry stated she drove by the Skateboard Park and also the Hospital Project and things are going on at both sites. Commissioner Terry congratulated the Residence Pride Award winners. Commissioner Terry reminded citizens to attend the Band Concert at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday July 19, at Hance Pavilion.

Commissioner Wilson congratulated all the winners and participants stating it felt like a "pep rally" tonight. Commissioner Wilson encouraged the Resident Pride Award winners to keep inspiring their neighbors to keep their properties up for the betterment of our community.

Mayor Fess invited Scott Schulz to come forward to be recognized for his Residence Pride Award. Mr. Schulz thanked the City and the person who nominated him. Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Schulz for taking pride in his property.

Mayor Fess stated it was a fun night and she appreciates the citizens who took the time to attend the Government Academy as some of them are already becoming involved with City programs and volunteering. City Manager Huff recommends the programs but it take citizens to make them work, stated Mayor Fess.

Mayor Fess asked City Manager Huff to explain what "Fiber Optics" is and what it means to the city. City Manager Huff explained what it consists of and further explained that very few cities have fiber optics. From an economic development standpoint it would be a great tool when trying to attract new companies to locate in the community. This will be a great opportunity for the community in the future, stated City Manager Huff.

Mayor Fess commented when Randy Kirchner was a Commissioner twenty years ago he along with Commissioner Wilson worked very hard to promote fiber optic lines coming into Piqua, and now it may become a reality soon.

Mayor Fess stated everyone in the community is working hard. If people are negative they need to get out and talk to other people and find out what is really going on in the community. We all take pride in our community and there are new ideas coming up one right after another.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 9:05 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Fess, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____

REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION