

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday October 16, 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**

Eagle Scout Presentation-Robby Bloom

Robby Bloom provided a brief power point presentation showing before and after pictures of the project he is working on for his Eagle Scout Badge. Mr. Bloom chose Heritage Green Park for his project, painting the Police & Fire Memorials, mulching and weeding the areas around the stones, repairing the bricks, and pouring sand between the bricks.

A rededication ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. at the Heritage Green, and the public is welcome to attend.

**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the April 12, 2012, May 10, 2012, September 13, 2012, October 2, 2012 Work Sessions, October 16, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting, and the Special Piqua City Commission Meeting of October 19, 2012

Commissioner Martin stated there was a typo on page 3 in the October 16, 2012 Regular City Commission Minutes further stating he has given the information to the Clerk for correction.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to amend the minutes to correct the typo on page 3 of the October 16, 2012 Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes. Voice vote, Aye, Martin. Fess, Vogt, Terry, Martin, and Wilson. Nay, None.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to approve the Minutes from the April 12, 2012, May 10, 2012, September 13, 2012, October 2, 2012 Work Sessions, the corrected October 16, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting, and the Special Piqua City Commission Meeting of October 19, 2012, as stated and amended. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORD. NO. 19-12 (3rd READING)**

An Ordinance amending Sections 154.005, 154.096, 154.097, 154.101, and 154.104 of the City of Piqua Code of Ordinances to modify definitions, standards and other general provisions applicable to high-rise/highway oriented and other sign types

City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated this item was presented to the Planning Commission in response from the City Commission to amend the sign standards in regards to high rise/highway oriented signage in regards to a request by a local business Paul Sherry RV Jeep Chrysler Dodge to maintain a 600 square foot 90 foot tall high-rise/highway sign. The high rise/highway oriented sign amendments proposed will affect on-premises signs located in business and industrial zoning districts along I-75. A Public Hearing was held by the Planning Commission concerning this item, and a recommendation was made, and presented to Commission. The first reading of the Ordinance the Exhibit was amended to reflect the requested amendment to the recommendation provided by the Planning Commission indicating the Maximum Sign Area to be 600 sq. ft. as opposed to the 400 sq. ft. initially recommended, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No.19-12.

Mayor Fess voiced her concern with modifying the ordinance stating the Planning Commission requested that the ordinance not be modified. Mayor Fess further stated this has nothing to do with the Sherry sign, but she does not feel the entire code should be modified at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Ordinance No. 19-12 be adopted. Roll call: Aye, Vogt, Wilson, and Martin. Nay: Fess and Terry. Motion carried on 3-2 vote. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 19-12 adopted.

**ORD. NO. 23-12 (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

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

Law Director Stacy Wall gave a brief overview of the changes in Chapter 34 of the Piqua Municipal Code stating under Section 34.19 *a contract for providing labor for any work under the supervision of streets or public service in excess of \$25,000 \$50,000 would come to the City Commission for approval.* The Ohio Revised Code adopted House Bill 509 on June 26, 2012 and this will bring the City Code in line with the Ohio Revised Code, stated Ms. Wall.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 23-12.

Several questions were asked by Commissioners concerning the benefit of the change in the Ordinance to the City. Ms. Wall provided several examples of the changes.

Commissioner Vogt voiced his concern over raising the limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000 at this time. Further stating he feels the Commissioners would still like to keep an eye on the spending, and leave it at the \$25,000 limit for their approval on items over that amount.

Ms. Wall stated this does not change the bidding process in any way, as the lowest bidder should still receive the bid. This is just changing when the authority has to come before the Commission.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 23-12 was given a first reading.

**ORD. NO. 24-12 (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

An Ordinance authorizing an amendment to Ordinance No. 4296 and the zoning map attached thereto to change the zoning designation of 437 Kitt Street, Parcel; N44-028630, to R1 (One-Family Residential)

City Planner Chris Schmiesing gave a brief explanation on the reason for the request stating the property owner would like to sell the property but due to the zoning designation the financial institute is requesting the zoning be changed to allow the sale to go through. The property has always been a single family residence (R-1) but is located in a (B) Business District. This Ordinance would change the zoning designation to R-1 Single Family Residential. Planning Commission held a Public Hearing and all adjacent property owners were notified with no comments or objects being received concerning the change in the zoning designation, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

**Public Comment**

Amber Crumrine, applicant, came forward and gave a brief explanation for her request to have the property located at 437 Kitt Street rezoned from B-Business to R-1 One Family Residential.

Commissioners asked several questions regarding the use of the property now and in the past.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to suspend the three reading rule that requires Ordinance No. 24-12 to be read fully and distinctly on three separate days. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Vogt, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to adopt Ordinance No. 24-12. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Martin, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: Vogt. Motion carried 4-1 vote. Mayor Fess then declared Ordinance No. 24-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-141-12**

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to contract with the Miami County Public Defender Commission

Law Director Stacy Wall stated this is the annual renewal of the contract with the Public Defender thru Miami County. The County has provided the Public Defender for the City of Piqua for a very long time. Ms. Wall stated she works with them on a weekly basis, and she feels the city receives excellent service. This contract is renewable with no increase from the previous year.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-141-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-141-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Terry, Fess, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-141-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-142-12**

A Resolution establishing a City Commission 2013 Calendar of Meetings

City Manager Huff explained this establishes the dates for the 2013 Piqua City Commission Meeting.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-142-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No.142-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Wilson, Martin, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-142-12 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.

No one came forward to speak at this time.

## **City Manager's Report**

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple gave a brief overview of the new Finance Software. As of November 5 the transitions have been made from the old to the new system with the first new set of Utility Bills being mailed on November 6. Due to the change over the bills were a little late going out so the due date has been extended from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> this month only. Ms. Holtzapple stated there is a sample of the new Utility Bill on the web site for citizens to review. Ms. Holtzapple also noted residents will find more information on their new bills such as comparable rates from last year, along with a change in the size of the new bill.

City Manager Huff stated Echo Hills Golf Course is conducting a 5K Walk to benefit the Wounded Warriors Program to be held on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. Registration forms are available at the Echo Hills Golf Course, City Hall, Thoma's, the VFW, the American Legion Post 184, and the Chamber of Commerce. Registration fee is \$20.00 with all participants receiving a long-sleeve t-shirt.

Both the Power and the Fire Departments provided mutual aid to parts of the country that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy this past week. The Power crew was sent to Philippi, West Virginia, and a crew from the Fire Department went to New Jersey as part of the Urban Search and Rescue Operation.

The next phase of the Miami County Branding Project is underway. This is the Community Survey part where all residents are being asked to participate. There is a survey link on the city web site that citizens can go to and provide their comments and input. Flyers were also available that evening and will be going out in the utility billings the month of November with a December 27, 2012 deadline for comments. City Manager Huff encouraged citizens to participate and take the survey.

The Cornerstone Restaurant at the Upper Valley Career Center will be holding their ribbon cutting and reception on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Huff stated the city is very excited about having this new restaurant in the community.

City Manager Huff announced the first budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15th at 6:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room and will be covering the Enterprise Budget.

City Manager Huff stated a Commission Work Session is scheduled for Thursday, November 8 at 7:30 in the Commission Chambers with two items on the agenda, the Riverfront District Analysis, Board and Commission Policies.

## **Commissioners Comments**

Commissioner Vogt thanked Robby Bloom for his presentation stating the City needs more young men like him to stand up and take a leadership role in the community. Commissioner Vogt also reminded citizens about the leaf pickup asking them to rake them out to the curb for pickup.

Commissioner Martin also congratulated Robby Bloom on his presentation and all of his hard work, stating the area looks very nice.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the work being done at Wayne and High Streets; voicing her concern about how large the project is as she was not aware of the magnitude of it. City Manager Huff explained it is part of CDBG Project. Commissioner Wilson also commented on the project.

Commissioner Wilson commented he walked over to the Heritage Green stating Robby Bloom has done a wonderful job as he goes there often and has noticed the difference he has made. Commissioner Wilson also commented on the Canal Place project along with the McDonalds Management Group lot on Ash Street, as they paved the lot and added landscape. Both of these projects will greatly enhance the downtown area, stated Commissioner Wilson.

Mayor Fess announced that Bob Evans Restaurant is joining with the Bethany Center to provide a Farmhouse Feast Dinner for families living in the Piqua area that may not have a Thanksgiving meal due to financial constraints this year. Donations are being accepted at Bob Evans and they will work with the Bethany Center to provide a meal for members of the community. The cost of providing a meal for a family of eight is \$79.00 but any donation is being accepted.

Mayor Fess thanked Robby Bloom for all of his hard work stating Heritage Green looks beautiful, as he has done a wonderful job.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:05 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Martin, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

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

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