

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday NOVEMBER 20, 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 November 6, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to approve the Minutes from the November 6, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. NO. 23-12 (2nd 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 stated this amends Chapter 34 of the Municipal Code defining city procedures for contracts. Currently any purchase of \$25,000 or more must come before the City Commission for approval. This Ordinance would amend the dollar amount from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for a purchase that would come to the City Commission for approval. 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 expenditure has to come before the City Commission for approval. These changes are in line with House Bill 509 adopted on June 26, 2012, and will bring the City Code in line with the Ohio Revised Code, stated Ms. Wall.

Mayor Fess stated she received one email regarding the change in the amount stating the citizen feels it is appropriate to make the change to help speed up the purchase process in the future.

Several questions were raised concerning the increased amount and if it would help to speed processing contracts up or not. It was noted the city staff feels by having the amount increased it would help to meet deadlines on contracts and expedite the process. Mayor Fess commented that most of the surrounding communities have already adopted this, and feels the city staff is fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Terry stated most of the contracts that come before the City Commission now are usually over the \$25,000 limit, further stating she trusts the judgment of the city staff.

Commissioner Vogt stated he believes the city staff does an excellent job, but stated the citizens want to know what is happening with their money and feels raising the amount up to \$50,000 would be letting the citizens down.

Commissioner Wilson stated he has received a few comments about keeping the amount at \$25,000, further stating that if citizens do not like what the Commissioners are doing they can be voted out, but a staff person cannot.

Public Comment

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

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

ORD. NO. 25-12 (1ST READING)

An Ordinance repealing Schedule A of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code and adopting a new Schedule A of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code, relating to wages of certain municipal employees

Elaine Barton Human Resources Director explained this resolution is adjusting the pay schedule for non-union employees beginning January 2013. It has been at least four years since the pay steps for the non-union positions covered by Schedule A have been increased. Ordinance No. 25-12 would increase the pay steps by 3.25% for all 37 full-time non-union positions.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 25-12 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 26-12 (1ST READING)

An Ordinance repealing Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code and adopting a new Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code, relating to wages of certain municipal employees

Elaine Barton Human Resource Director explained the State of Ohio has increased the minimum wage rate effective January 1, 2013 from \$7.70 per hour to \$7.85 per hour, which amounts to a 2% increase. The pay rates for the positions on Schedule A-1 have not been increased in several years (except for minimum wage) and a 2% increase has been applied to all positions.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 26-12 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 27-12 (1ST READING)

An Ordinance repealing existing Chapter 33.08 –Insurance and enacting a new Chapter 33.08 of the Piqua Code, relating to employee policy

Elaine Barton Human Resource Director explained this would set the health savings account (HAS) or health reimbursement account (HRA) contributions and the premium share for the City as well as for the non-union employees for the 2013 benefit year. The City will contribute 75% of the deductible into a HAS or HRA and will contribute 85% of the total cost of the plan leaving 15% for the employees to pay. The employee will be able to earn additional contribution to their HAS or HRA by participating in certain wellness activities, stated Ms. Barton.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 27-12 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 28-12 (1ST READING)

An Ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio for the year 2013

City Manager Huff stated this is the first reading authorizing appropriations for the budget year 2013 for all operations and departments in the City. The first budget meeting was held on November 15, and a second one is scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2012 at 6:00 P.M., and is open to the public, stated City Manager Huff.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 28-12 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-143-12

A Resolution of Intent to Vacate Public Right-Of-Way

Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Bill Murphy explained the applicant would like to vacate a portion of Downing Street right of way located south of Meteor Street. The right of

way is not improved with transportation infrastructure, and is not essential to the public transportation.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-143-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-143-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-143-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-144-12

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Burch Hydro, Inc. for services of the Wastewater Plant Biosolids removal and land application.

Wastewater Plant Superintendent Dave Davis explained that currently the Wastewater Treatment Plant contracts with Burch Hydro to remove and apply Wastewater Plant biosolids to OEPA approved farmland as fertilizer. This was sent out for bid and the bids received would all perform the same services for the next 3 years at the bid prices indicated. Synagro was the previous service supplier for over 6 years prior to Burch Hydro, but they chose not to bid along with one other service supplier.

Mr. Davis was asked to explain what Biosolids are and gave a brief explanation on what they are, and how they are disposed of.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-144-12.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. 144-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Terry, Wilson, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-144-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-145-12

A Resolution acquiring the services of CDM Smith to provide professional engineering services for water treatment plant detailed design and bidding phase, engineering services

Water System Superintendent Don Freisthler explained the city went out for RFQ's receiving only three responses, and interviewed all three of them. CDM Smith was selected and a contract has been submitted for review. The contract with CDM Smith consist of the Final Design Study and Evaluation Report, Detailed Design Plans that will be submitted to the State and any changes required to receive approval of the Detailed Design and will cover the bid documents and negotiations with the contractor. Part of the Final Study will include the feasibility of doing a partial treatment of the water with a GAC unit. This would help to keep the city in compliance with the Ohio EPA while the new plant is under construction, and will show the EPA that the City is doing everything possible to meet the new regulations. We must continue to stay focused on the new THM regulation that comes into effect October 2013.

Bob Yoxthimer of CDM was in attendance coming forward and giving a brief overview of the plans and the different stages of the process.

After a brief discussion and questions it was noted that the project would take about 18 months after construction begins, and should be completed by the end of 2016. Mayor Fess stated the city has always had a good history with CDM Smith over the years they have worked with them.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No.145-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Vogt, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-145-12 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.

Linda Stout, Gordon Street came forward and expressed her concerns about the building located at the point on Covington Avenue and Wood Street being in a state of disrepair, and feels it is an eyesore for the neighborhood. Ms. Stout asked what the plans were for the building, if any.

City Manager Huff explained that the property in question is going to be taken down, but that the City is using CDBG Funds and there are certain guidelines and steps that have to be completed first.

City Manager's Report

Economic Development Update – Bill Murphy Assistant City Manager/Economic Development

Mr. Murphy started out by explaining what Economic Development is and provided information on Job Creation, Job Retention, Tax Base Enhancement, Quality of Life, Success Stories, the 2012 Work Plan adopted by Grow Piqua Now, the 2012 Retention and Expansion plan, also provided 2012 year to date permit activity, project summaries highlighting companies that have expanded recently. Looking to 2013 Mr. Murphy gave a brief overview of their expectations in development, including work on 5 development projects that include the demolition of the Piqua Memorial Hospital site, Power Plant, East Ash Street Project, Co. Rd. 25-A North Project, and the Co. Rd. 25-A South Project.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the city has been rated on what new companies would like to see in Piqua to make them want to locate their companies here. Mr. Murphy explained how that was accomplished. City Manager Huff stated the City is in the process of completing a new branding initiative along with strategies on marketing and assets.

City Manager Huff stated a Housing Enhancement League was formed to provide assistance to residential property owners to enhance housing and improve neighborhoods, and gave a brief overview of the new program.

City Manager Huff announced work would begin on the Bike Path Bridge over the river that was damaged by fire a few months ago on November 26, and the work should be completed in about 30 days.

City Manager Huff stated for the first time the City of Piqua would have a float in the December 8th Holiday Parade. Also the City offices will be closed on Thursday November 22 and Friday November 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Refuse and recycling will be picked up a day late due to the holiday, stated City Manager Huff.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Terry stated the Christmas lights downtown look very nice and reminded citizens Santa arrives on Saturday, December 8th, 2012. Commissioner Terry also reminded citizens to shop locally and support the downtown businesses, further stating she attended the Upper Valley Career Center rededication recently and encouraged citizens to stop out and enjoy lunch at the new restaurant. Commissioner Terry also attended the Eagle Scout ceremony for Robby Bloom at the Heritage Green further stating he did an outstanding job. Commissioner Terry wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Fess wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and asked citizens to remember Commissioner Vogt's wife Patty in their thoughts and prayers as she is facing a very difficult health problem at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting into Executive Session at 8:35 P.M. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline or compensation of the City Manager. Roll Call vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to move into Executive Session.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Executive Session at 9:43 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to move from the Executive Session

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 9:45 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION