

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday December 4, 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.

**PROCLAMATION**

**Congratulations to 1570 WPTW AM- Muzzy Broadcasting for 65 Years in the City of Piqua**

Mayor Fess read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Rick Muzzy.

Mr. Muzzy thanked the City of Piqua for the proclamation further stating he is very lucky to be able to continue the heritage that Oscar Baker and the Baker family started. Mr. Muzzy came to Piqua over forty years ago and started his career at WPTW, left the area to pursue his career, and now is thrilled to be back in Piqua and especially at WPTW Radio again.

**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

**RES. NO. R-147-12**

A Resolution for preliminary legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the resurfacing of I-75 from Statler Road Bridge to the Miami -Shelby County Line

**RES. NO. R-148-12**

A Resolution for preliminary legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for bridge repairs on SR 66

**RES. NO. R-149-12**

A Resolution for preliminary legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for guardrail work along US 36

Mayor Fess read the Resolutions and asked for comments or questions from the Commissioners and the audience. Hearing none a motion was made by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORD. NO. 23-12 (3rd 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.

**Public Comment**

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

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Ordinance No. 23-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess. Nay: Vogt, Martin, Wilson. **Ordinance No. 23-12 was defeated on a 2-3 vote.**

**ORD. NO. 25-12 (2nd 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.

Ordinance No. 25-12 was given a second reading.

**ORD. NO. 26-12 (2nd 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. The increase includes seasonal, temporary, and part-time employees stated Ms. Barton.

Ordinance No. 26-12 was given a second reading.

**ORD. NO. 27-12 (2nd 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 and employee rates will stay the same as in 2012, stated Ms. Barton.

Ordinance No. 27-12 was given a second reading.

**ORD. NO. 28-12 (2nd READING)**

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

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple stated this is the second reading authorizing appropriations for the budget year 2013 for all operations and departments in the City. The Commission previously held two public budget meeting work sessions to go over the various departments budgets line by line and make adjustments as needed.

Ordinance No. 28-12 was given a second reading.

Mayor Fess thanked Finance Director Holtzapple and City Manager Huff along with all of the Department Heads and staff for all their hard work on putting together the budget appropriations for 2013.

**RES. NO. R-146-12**

A Resolution authorizing purchase orders to Chemical Services Inc., Huron Lime, Inc., Marubeni Specialty Chemicals, Inc., Univar USA Inc., City of Dayton for the 2013 purchase of various water treatment chemicals

Utilities Director Dave Burtner explained this is the annual purchase of chemicals for the water plant. Seventeen bids were received with the best and lowest bids recommended in the resolution. Several bids were received from various vendors that did not meet the specifications, stated Mr. Burtner. There was discussion concerning how the bids were chosen and the reasons for going with certain bidders. Commissioner Wilson asked if there could be more clarification on the bids next time, and Commissioner Vogt asked if all of the lime was going to be purchased from Dayton. Mr. Burtner stated they would look at clarifying the bids a little better in the future, and further stating that they plan to purchase most of the lime from Dayton if it is available.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-146-12.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-146-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Vogt, Fess, Martin, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-146-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-150-12**

A Resolution strongly opposing the passage of HB 601 by the Ohio General Assembly which proposes uniformity measures for Municipal Income Tax in the form of unfunded mandates and a substantial loss of revenue, and declaring an emergency

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple gave a brief explanation stating the reason the City of Piqua should oppose the passage of HB 601. The soon to be considered House Bill 601 would drastically reduce income tax collections as well as impose unfunded mandates and increased administrative costs which would have a detrimental effect on the ability to maintain local services to the citizens of Piqua with a total loss of about 2.1 million, stated Ms. Holtzapple. When you hear the State is balancing their budget, they are doing it by cutting the City of Piqua's budget, and this is affecting all communities not just Piqua, stated Mayor Fess.

City Manager Huff explained all of the cuts are related to the General Fund which amounts to about 10 million dollars and will have a tremendous effect on all areas of the budget. Mayor Fess stated this is a very serious situation and possibly we may have to put a tax levy on the May ballot, as this is for safety services only, not raises for the employees.

Commissioner Wilson stated he spoke with Representative Dick Adams concerning this issue and Mr. Adams stated he will help the City of Piqua in any way he can.

Commissioner Vogt commented last year the State had a proposal trying to collect the City's Income Tax and he spoke with Mr. Adams concerning that issue. Mr. Adams stated he was against that proposal, but the State would come up with something else, and they did. Letters or emails can be sent to Senator Biegel and Representative Adams voicing concerns over HB 601, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Mayor Fess stated Ms. Holtzapple and City Manager Huff have done an outstanding job on staying on top of this and are to be commended.

### **Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-150-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No.150-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Fess, Martin, Wilson, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-150-12 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.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and voiced his concern about a line item transfer in the General Fund. City Manager Huff explained the transfer.

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

#### **Public Works Department Update**

Street Superintendent Doug Harter gave a brief overview of the Public Works Division which consists of Streets, Parks, and Traffic. At this time there are seven employees in the Street Division, two employees in the Parks Division, and two employees in the Traffic Division. Mr. Harter stated as a group they are strong and they work together as a team, and this year have primarily concentrated on the Parks Division. Mr. Harter provided a power point presentation providing information on the Parks accomplishments in 2012, which includes Park maintenance and repairs, Street patching and repairs, the demolition of the old Parks building at Pitsenbarger Park, new garden plots in the spring at Pitsenbarger Park, Compost Facility, Golf Course drainage and cart path repairs, Government Academy programs, Flags and Banners, and the Heritage Festival. In the Traffic Division maintenance of 3,500 signs, maintaining and marking handicap spaces, leaf collection, Adopt-A-Program signage, landscaping and memorial tree plantings and mounting plaques, mowing of over 1,000 acres a week, taking care of storm damage/trees, putting up Christmas lights.

New items in 2012 include the organization of the Volunteer Park Ranger Program, the Adopt-A-Program, Brian Brookhart being certified as Playground Inspector, and the purchase of a new Weed Sprayer.

Coming in 2013 are the Garden Plots to be leased to residents in Pitsenbarger Park, Fix 311 a smartphone app to be released to public to report problems as the public sees them, a Facebook page for the Parks Division, the resurfacing of Fisk and Electric Avenue, and the swimming pool slide will be refurbished with Grant money. Also new in 2013 a living art mural will be established on the wood fence at Pitsenbarger Park, and Mr. Harter explained the living mural.

Commissioner Wilson asked if residents could still contact someone by telephone if they see a problem if they do not have a smartphone to use the app on. Mr. Harter explained they could still call into any office in the City to provide the information on the problem or concern they have.

Mayor Fess congratulated Mr. Harter on the tremendous amount of work that they have accomplished in 2012 and stated she is looking forward to 2013.

City Manager Huff stated Christmas on the Green is scheduled for Friday, December 7th from 6:00-9:00 P.M. and the Holiday Parade is Saturday December 8, at 2:00 P.M. For the first time the City of Piqua would have a float in the Holiday Parade.

**Commissioners Comment**

Commissioner Wilson stated the Holiday Parade will be held Saturday come rain or shine, and further stating in regards to the holiday spirit the house at the corner of Lindsey and Broadway is very festive and invited citizens to drive by to view the display.

Commissioner Terry stated she has received several calls concerning citizens not receiving their utility bills or getting a very short turn-around time on paying the bills. Finance Director Holtzaple explained the reason for the late bills and the short turn-around period, stating it is due to several issues including the new Utility Billing System as they are still working out the bugs.

Commissioner Terry reminded citizens that the Salvation Army Kettles are out now and are accepting donations. Commissioner Terry stated she loves the WPTW Radio Station oldies format, and remembers as a child listening to WPTW Radio and Santa Claus reading all the letters he received from the children on the air.

Commissioner Vogt also commented he remembers as a child seeing the red light on the WPTW Radio tower and being concerned about what it was. Commissioner Vogt stated he attended the ribbon cutting for the New Power System Service Center and taking the tour of the new state of the art facility and being very impressed. Hats off to Power Systems Director Ed Krieger and his crew for doing an outstanding job on the new facility, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Mayor Fess stated she attended the Holiday Cabaret at the Plaza recently and the City of Piqua is so fortunate to have such wonderful talent that has come out of Piqua over the years, and have went on to be very successful in their musical careers. Mayor Fess thanked the Friends of the Library for providing this wonderful program. Christmas on the Green will be held on Friday December 7th and the Piqua Library will be open for tours for all to enjoy the beautiful decorated trees that are on display. The Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 8th at 2:00 P.M. and Mayor Fess encouraged citizens to attend both of the events. The Power System Service Center technology is amazing and is state of the art, stated Mayor Fess. An open house is scheduled for some time after the first of the year for citizens to view the facility. Also the Emergency Operations Center is located in the new Power Service Center and will be utilized as needed. City Manager Huff explained what the Emergency Operations Center is and how it functions.

Mayor Fess stated she is very proud of the project, and that most of work was completed by local businesses.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:30 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

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

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