

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday October 1, 2013
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 Terry, Wilson, Vogt, and Martin.

Also present: Gary Koenig, Cindy Pearson, Steve Reindel, Kathy Sherman, Ruth Koon

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

PROCLAMATION: COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH IN THE CITY OF PIQUA

Mayor Fess read the proclamation and presented it to: City Planner Chris Schmiesing, Planning Commission Board Member Gary Koenig, Planning Commission Board Member Cindy Pearson, and Board of Zoning Appeals Chairman Steve Reindel.

PROCLAMATION – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF PIQUA

Mayor read the proclamation and presented it to Law Director Stacy Wall.

RESIDENCE PRIDE AWARDS

Jerry & Terre Bailey	1816 Wilshire Drive
Clarice Carpenter	1400 Severs Drive
Fred & Pauline Plunkett	1607 Haverhill Drive
Lynn and Nancy Sever	107 Blackwell
Bob & Ruth Tilton	1304 Brook Street

Mayor Fess read the names of the Residence Pride Award winners as slides of the homes were shown. Mayor Fess congratulated all of the winners stating she hopes they inspire their neighbors to maintain their properties in the same manner.

City Manager Huff provided information on how citizens can nominate a home for a Residence Pride Award.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Consent Agenda

Approval of the minutes from the September 17, 2013 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to table the Minutes of the September 17, 2013 City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Fess, Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

ORD. NO. 14-13 (2nd Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 151.135, 151.70, 151.71, and 151.73 of Chapter 151 or the City of Piqua Code of Ordinance to establish construction performance requirements for subdivision improvements

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner stated this is the second reading on the changes in chapter 151 of the Piqua Code. This will amend the subdivision regulations to include construction performance requirements for subdivision improvements. The proposed amendments will provide a means for

ensuring that the approved subdivision improvements will be constructed within a reasonable timeframe and that all of the work items incidental to the approved improvement will be complete prior to any individual lot improvements being permitted.

Public Comment

Jim Cruse, Co. Rd. 25-A, came forward and voiced his concern over storm drainage tiles in the fields being damaged, as the runoff affects properties not only close by but down the road in many cases. Mr. Cruse stated he would like to see language changes added to prevent this happening in the agriculture districts. Mr. Schmiesing stated he would follow up on this.

After a brief discussion Ordinance No. 14-13 was given a second reading.

RES. NO. R- 127-13

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase the real property located at 102 S. Main Street, Parcel ID No. N44-001240

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner stated the property located at 102 S. Main Street is situated within the Riverfront District Planning Area, and the current owner of the property desires to donate the property to the City. By approving the resolution it will authorize proceeding with taking possession of ownership of the property. After taking possession of the property it will be demolished to make the site redevelopment ready, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

Mr. Schmiesing explained where the property is located. City Manager Huff stated there will be more in the future as the city plans to get ownership of other properties to encourage redevelopment in the downtown area.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-121-13.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-127-13 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Vogt, Terry, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-127-13 adopted.

RES. NO. R-128-13

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into the LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Non-Infrastructure Program

City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated in May of 2012, the City was notified of the award of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the implementation of non-infrastructure programs. The projects will consist of working with the Piqua City Schools, students, and parents to conduct programming that will teach and encourage student to walk or bike safely to and from school. The intent is to implement the programming during the 2013/2014 school year, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

There were several questions raised regarding the education of the students, parents and community on the Safe Routes to School Program. Mr. Schmiesing explained this is made up of various City departments, the schools, and the community to educate them on safety procedures while going to and from school.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-128-13.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No R-128-13 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Terry, Martin, Wilson, and Fess. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-128-13 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Barhorst, S. Wayne Street, came forward to inquire about the status of a property located at 203-205 S. Downing Street. Mr. Barhorst stated the property is in need of major repairs and provided each of the Commissioners with a photo of the property. Mr. Barhorst stated he has reported the property previously and so far nothing has been done. He sent a letter to the bank offering to purchase it and also sent a copy of the letter to Law Director Wall concerning the sale of the property. Mr. Barhorst stated he is concerned since the property was condemned previously, and does not understand how it can be sold without repairs being made to it before allowing someone to move in again. City Manager Huff stated he would look into it. Law Director Stacy Wall stated she is not always notified of changes, and does not get a lot of cooperation from the banks, especially the out of town banks on the foreclosed or condemned properties. Mr. Barhorst further stated he is very concerned since the property is in such close proximity to St. Boniface School, and the language that is heard coming from that property, young children should not be subjected to hearing.

Mayor Fess stated she has also received telephone calls from other neighbors regarding this particular property.

City Manager Huff stated since July 2013 the city has had close to one-hundred property maintenance inspections requested, and they are continuously working on all of them. Mr. Huff stated he will continue to look at the it.

Kathy Sherman, Director Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce, came forward and announced the Regional Business Showcase will take place on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at the Piqua High School from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. and is open to the public. Ms. Sherman encouraged citizens to come see what the business community has to offer. This is free and open to the public.

Ruth Koon, Park Avenue, came forward to announce the 5th Year Fort Piqua Plaza Gala to be held at the Fort Piqua Plaza on October 16, 2013 beginning at 7:00 P.M. with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra performing. The funds being raised are for the maintenance of the property. Ms. Koon thanked City Manager Huff for his recent editorial explaining the ownership of the Fort Piqua Plaza.

Tickets are still available at Mainstreet Piqua, or by contacting Ruth Koon at 778-1288. Ms. Koon stated the gala is open to all citizens of Piqua and encouraged everyone to attend.

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place, voiced her concern about the City's Master Plan not being followed concerning the South end entrances, and the businesses on Main Street. Ms. Franz stated several businesses on S. Main Street are in desperate need of major repairs, and should be demolished, and that the money seems to always be spent elsewhere instead of in the South end of town.

Mayor Fess stated the City is looking at the buildings Ms. Franz is talking about, but when the money is given in the form of grants it has be used for what it is applied for, we cannot change locations.

Ms. Franz also asked if it would be possible to offer the Renew Piqua Paint Program again. Ms. Franz stated there is still money left in the fund that she would like to offer home owners if they would like to paint their own homes, or help a neighbor paint theirs.

Ms. Franz also asked if it would be possible to look into the large number of abandoned cars and campers in backyards and alleys. Ms. Franz asked if the City would considered using the old Bennett Jr. High for additional City office space, stating the Municipal Government Complex is full.

Jim Cruse, Co. Rd. 25A, stated he noticed a lot of the houses and sidewalks along South Main Street are in need of a lot of work. Mr. Cruse also believes the street needs to be rebuilt.

Mr. Cruse also voiced his concern about the City not using a local wireless business provider in Piqua instead of going out of town when looking at the fiber optics contracts recently. Mr. Cruse explained the reason he feels that wireless would be more efficient than the fiber optics. Mr. Cruse further stated he would like the city to look at the use of wireless as an economic development advantage for new businesses, and feels it would be more cost effective than running fiber optics.

Cindy Pearson, Wood Street, came forward thanked the City for listening to the neighbors asking the city to take down the old building at the Covington Avenue Point, and making Wood Street a one way street from Gordon Street to College Street. The traffic flow is great now with the one way street traffic, stated Ms. Pearson.

Mayor Fess stated she is glad to see it all worked out, and that the neighbors are happy about the one way traffic on Wood Street.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Huff stated there are a lot of positive things happening in Piqua in the next few weeks in Piqua, they include:

- October 10 Chamber Business After Hours at Ft. Piqua Plaza
- October 16 Storm Water Phase 1 Master Plan Meeting
- October 16 Ft. Piqua Plaza Gala
- October 17 Miami County Regional Economic Development Forum
- October 17 Regional Business Showcase
- October 19 Groovy Gourd Bike Tour
- October 23 State of the County Luncheon

City Manager Huff stated there is a lot of construction going on in the City of Piqua including:

- Ash Street Reconstruction Project
- Phase 2 of the County Road 25-A Project
- RT 36 Beautification Project
- Fountain Park Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation
- College Street Signalization Project
- Paving of the Plaza Parking Lot
- Street/Park Fencing

Piqua will be featured nationwide on the Alliance for Innovations GovNews for the new Handicap Accessible Playground planned for Pitsenbarger Park in the near future. There is a lot of positive things happening in Piqua, and this is just one of them, stated City Manager Huff.

Mayor Fess stated she read the article and it stated this will be the first Handicap Accessible Playground built in the Dayton Region. This is being done by a Grant received from KaBoom for Piqua being recognized as a Playful City USA Community.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Terry congratulated the Residence Pride Award winners as each property has been well taken care of, and is an inspiration to the other neighbors.

Commissioner Wilson mentioned the paving of Main Street is scheduled for next year. Mr. Wilson stated he is looking forward to the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra coming to Piqua, and thanked Mrs. Koon for all the hard work she has provided in putting together the Gala.

Commissioner Wilson stated he wanted to talk about the Public Comment portion of the Commission Meeting. This is a really important part of the Commission Meeting, and is a great way to communicate and express opinions. But, is not the place to have a public debate, you need be civil, as everyone will not always agree on things. There is a way to present your

comments as not to embarrass yourself or the Commissioners. "Tonight was a great night for public comment" said Commissioner Wilson.

Mayor Fess also addressed the issue of the Public Comment portion of the Commission Meeting, stating she would like to make a recommendation. It is very hard when citizens come to the floor and ask specific questions. Mayor Fess asked citizens to contact the Commissioners or the City Manager in advance so they will be able to provide the answers to the specific questions. When specific questions are asked at the Commission Meeting the Commissioners may not have the answers at hand or have the personal at the meeting to answer the question. By contacting the Commissioners or City Manager before the meeting this will allow them to provide the information that is being requested stated Mayor Fess.

Mayor Fess announced she attended the unveiling of the new boulevard entrance sign to the Candlewood Subdivision on Saturday. The sign was provided by the Southwest Neighborhood Association at their own cost. Mayor Fess stated the City appreciates all the good work the Neighborhood Associations do in the City of Piqua.

Mayor Fess announced that Governor John Kasich was in Piqua on Monday September 30, at Hartzell Air Movement to speak about a new training program that was put in effect last year. Hartzell Air Movement was given a voucher for payment for the training of 26 employees, thanks to the program.

Bill Murphy, Economic Development Director/Asst. City Manager, provided a brief overview of the Incumbent Work Training Voucher Program, and how it benefits Hartzell Air Movement employees.

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

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION