

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, August 5, 2014  
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, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Absent: None.

Mayor Fess announced the City Commission Meeting would not be broadcast live due to technical difficulties, but would be rebroadcast on Wednesday August 6, at 12:00 noon on Channel 5.

**RESIDENCE PRIDE AWARDS**

Nancy Bergman	1009 Nicklin Avenue
Chad & Lisa Emery	1105 Washington Avenue
Bob & Mindy Hodge	302 Linden Avenue
Karen Long	719 College Street
Scott & Ginger Ponchillia	1608 Broadway

Mayor Fess read the names of the Residence Pride Award winners as a picture of each home was shown. Chad and Lisa Emery, 1105 Washington Avenue came forward and thanked the City of Piqua for their award.

Mayor Fess thanked all of the Residence Pride Award winners and encouraged citizens to nominate their neighbors by calling the City Manager's Office at 937-778-2051.

**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the July 10, 2014 Piqua City Worksession, and the July 15, 2014 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to approve the Consent Agenda. Voice vote: Aye: Fess, Martin, Terry, Vogt, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORD. NO. 9-14 (1<sup>ST</sup> Reading)**

An Ordinance to levy Special Assessments to pay the cost of demolition assessments per terms of Moving Ohio Forward Grant Agreement

Justin Sommer Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director provided the Staff Report.

The City of Piqua entered into a grant agreement (Moving Ohio Forward) with the Miami County Board of Commissioners for the demolition of residential structures. The terms of the grant were that the City would demolish up to ten houses and assess one half of the demolition cost to the property owners.

Commissioner's raised several questions concerning the demolition. Were the property owners notified, if by assessing the property owners does the city fulfill the terms of the grant.

Law Director Stacy Wall provided a brief overview on the process, further stating to date the city

has demolished five properties for a total cost of \$33,309.66.

All questions were answered by Mr. Sommer and City Manager Huff.

After discussion Ordinance No. 9-14 was given a first reading.

**ORD. NO. 10-14 (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

An Ordinance to levy Special Assessments to pay for the cost of nuisance abatement assessment

Health & Sanitation Director Amy Welker provided the Staff Report.

This is the annual assessments that abates nuisance conditions on properties including mowing high grass, removing trash, trimming trees, and demolishing structures according to city code. The cost of the abatement is charged back to the property owner. If the property owner fails to pay the abatement cost then the costs are certified to the county auditor to be placed on the property taxes. The auditor only accepts these assessments once per year and are due to the Miami County Auditor by September 8, 2014.

Several questions were raised about the dollar amount that is sent to the auditor, if property owners can pay their bills before they are sent to the auditor's office, if any bills are ever paid before the assessment date, and what is the grass height requirement before being cut by the city?

Ms. Welker answered all questions, further stating that a lot of the assessments are foreclosed properties. It was also noted that many of the properties are owned by multiple owners not taking care of their properties causing blight in the neighborhood. There are a lot of the same names that have been on the list now for several years.

After discussion Ordinance No. 10-14 was given a first reading.

**RES. R-86-14**

A Resolution awarding a contract to Innovative Software Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for a new Municipal Income Tax Information System, including data conversion, training, implementation, and first year annual maintenance fees

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Cynthia Holtzaple provided the Staff Report.

Three bids were received and after site demos and extensive research Innovative Software Services, Inc. was chosen. The current AS400/System 36 was purchased in 1995, and the technology and operating system is approximately 30 years old, stated Ms. Holtzaple.

The Innovative Software Services software is very user-friendly and includes document imaging, a letter generation program, and offers a wide variety of customizable options making it the best fit for the City now and in the future, stated Ms. Holtzaple.

Several questions were raised on the need for the new software system at this time. Why not using the Springbrook System purchase recently for the Income Tax ; why the city is still using the AS 400 at this time; will there have to be any modifications made to be used by the city, and if would be possible to run tests prior to the 2015 tax season.

Rick Carpenter, President of Innovative Software Services, Inc. came forward and provided a brief overview of the Income Tax Program and the services it will provide to the Income Tax Department.

All questions were answered by Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Holtzaple.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-86-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Wilson, and Terry, Nay: Vogt. Motion carried on a 4-1 vote. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-86-14 adopted on a 4-1 vote.

**RES. NO. R-87-14**

A Resolution appointing one member to the Friend of Piqua Parks Board of Trustees

City Manager Huff stated several years ago the Piqua Friends of the Parks was founded. The Board of Trustees is required to have nine members. One of the members is to be a City Commissioner, and Commissioner William Vogt is being appointed by Resolution R-87-14 to fill the requirement of the Board of Trustees.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R- 87-14.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution R-87-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Martin, Terry, and Wilson, Nay, None. Commissioner Vogt abstained. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution R-87-14 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-88-14**

A Resolution authorizing the sale of City owned real estate

Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Justin Sommer provided the Staff Report.

The American Legion approached the city in June to purchase the property owned by the City of Piqua located between Roosevelt Avenue and Downing Street. The property is currently surrounded by the American Legion parking lot and the recreational trail to the south, Roosevelt Avenue to the west, a public alley and the American Legion to the north. The existing abandoned railroad era improvements are no longer in use and of no use to the public. The American Legion desires to facilitate the expansion of existing improvements and future additional parking.

The City and the American Legion have determined and agreed upon the fair market value of \$18,761 for the purchase of the property. The sale of the land does not need to be bid as it is being sold to the adjacent land owner as permitted by the Piqua Municipal Code, stated Mr. Sommer.

Gary Felver, President of the American Legion Post 184, came forward and provided a brief overview of their plans for the property. The American Legion have already razed 2 houses next to their building, and future plans are to enlarge their parking lot and add on to the original building.

Mr. Felver further stated the American Legion will continue to maintain the heliport area for Careflight to land to transfer patients to Miami Valley Hospital as needed.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R- 88-14.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-88-14 be adopted. Roll call vote, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-88-14 adopted.

Mayor Fess wished the American Legion good luck with their future plans.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Lange, St. Rt. 66, President of POWW came forward and provided a brief overview of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Sweep held on July 19, 2014. This year they picked up about 700 lbs. less than last year which is a step in the right direction. Mr. Lange thanked all of the sponsors and the volunteers who participated this year.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Lange for his leadership and also thanked all the sponsors and volunteers who helped with the Clean Sweep this year. Mayor Fess also thanked Commissioner Wilson for his participation in the Clean Sweep again this year.

Gary Felver, Park Avenue, came forward stating he would like to make a Public Safety Announcement. Mr. Felver stated eight years ago he lost a great-nephew to child abuse, further stating "he wished mothers would think more of their children than they do of their boyfriends." Also he asked grandparents, aunts and uncles to periodically check on their young grandchildren, niece and nephews to be sure they are in a safe environment.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Huff stated he wanted to comment on the City of Piqua's water source and testing of the water in light of the water situation this past weekend in Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Huff provided a brief overview of Piqua's water sources, and the testing that is done every two weeks on the water in the summer months. With construction of the new water plant the city would be able to treat the type of algae that was in the water in Toledo, stated City Manager Huff.

City Manager Huff announced they will be attending the Healthiest Employer Award Ceremony on Thursday August 8, at Sinclair Community College to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Healthiest Employer Award.

City Manager Huff also announced the City of Piqua is currently featured on the front page of the Ohio Planner's Newsletter for being recognized as a national leader in Complete Streets.

City Manager Huff congratulated city employee Ben Gover on winning the Echo Hills Golf Tournament this past weekend, being only one over par.

The City of Piqua also received the Playful City USA Certification again this year which enabled the City to receive a \$20,000 Grant for Handicap Playground equipment to be installed at Pitsenbarger Park, stated City Manager Huff.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wilson thanked POWW and Jeff Lange for all the hard work and time he and the volunteers have done to clean up the local waterways.

Commissioner Wilson stated he attended all three of the Rock Piqua Concerts and they were great, and well attended. I am looking forward to next year and possibly adding a few more concerts, said Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Wilson stated he was glad to see Chad & Lisa Emery in attendance tonight and thanked them for taking such good care of their property.

Commissioner Terry congratulated Chad & Lisa Emery, along with all of the other Residence Pride winners. Commissioner Terry stated thanks to Chad and Lisa they inspire their neighbors to get out and improve the rest of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Terry also congratulated Ben Gover on winning the Echo Hills Golf Tournament.

Commissioner Terry congratulated the Street Department for maintaining the Bike Path by keeping the weeds cut back, especially through Fountain Park.

Commissioner Terry stated she was very proud of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward as four out of five Residence Pride Award winners were from her Ward.

Commissioner Martin congratulated POWW, Jeff Lange and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to cleaning up the local waterways.

Commissioner Vogt congratulated the Residence Pride Winners, and also thanked Jeff Lange and POWW for all their hard work.

Commissioner Vogt stated he has been receiving telephone calls from citizens voicing their concern about the Storm Water Run-Off Fee, and the reason for the fee. He stated he has been explaining the reason for the fee, and encouraging citizens to blow their grass back into their yards instead of into the streets.

Mayor Fess stated all three of the Rock Piqua Concerts were wonderful and very well attended. Total attendance for all three concerts was about 8000, which is great for the first year.

Mayor Fess thanked all of the Committee members, and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make the Rock Piqua Concerts a success.

Mayor Fess thanked Jeff Lange and all of the volunteers for all of their hard work on the Clean Sweep.

Mayor Fess congratulated all of the Residence Pride Award winners thanking them for taking pride in their properties.

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

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LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

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

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