

Piqua City Commission Worksession

September 11, 2014, Minutes

All members of the Commission were present except for Mayor Lucy Fess. Commissioner Martin made a motion to excuse Mayor Fess and Commissioner Terry seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative.

The first item on the agenda was the Recreational Trail Celebration. Chris Schmiesing introduced Dr. Jim Burkhardt who has spearheaded the event. Dr. Burkhardt has attended several beer tasting events as fundraisers and thought the same thing could be done in Piqua but wanted to tie it into promotion of the Riverfront and the recreational trails. There will be five stations with beer and food being paired at each station. All of the food will be from Piqua restaurants. In addition to the beer and food, participants will be shuttled to the Eat Ash Street Bridge where they will canoe down the river. The event is to be an awareness event of the river and the recreational trail.

The event needs to be planned quickly because daylight is required for the event so the event is scheduled for October 4th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 each and are limited to the first 100 people. Tickets can be purchased at MainStreet. The event is not open to the public as it is a fundraiser for the trail system. Tickets are available for designated drivers for the food and canoe ride. The event will take place in Lock 9 Park along the history wall. Plans are being made for an indoor location due to inclement weather.

The funds raised will purchase automatic counters to be placed on the bike path. Chris Schmiesing explained how the counters range from \$1,000 - \$3,000 but will allow for accurate counts of users of the path all year long rather than depending on volunteers every three years. The City will need to do a lease of the Lock 9 Park for the private event.

Commissioner Vogt expressed his concern that the ticket price was too expensive for the average income. He wanted the event to be open to everyone and felt the ticket price prohibited that. Dr. Burkhardt agreed that the ticket price was not cheap but it was set at \$50 because it is a fundraiser, tickets are limited and it is the first time to try such an event. Commissioner Wilson said ticket prices were no different than the gala event.

The second item on the agenda was a zoning code amendment. Chris Schmiesing, City Planner, presented the issue in response to the Commission's concern on a previous matter that required an ordinance and thus three readings by the Commission for approval of a zoning code amendment. Mr. Schmiesing presented a chart showing that Piqua approves zoning amendments currently faster than the majority of surrounding communities at 2.5 months. Some cities were four and 4.5 months. The

Planning Commission considered two options: (1) everything go through the Planning Commission which would approve a zoning amendment at one month or (2) after Planning Commission approval, the City Commission would approve by resolution instead of ordinance, a zoning amendment in 1.5 months. The Planning Commission liked both options and reaffirmed that they are following the Comprehensive Plan as approved by the City Commission. A third alternative that was introduced but received no discussion was treating the zoning amendment like a special use and allow for Planning Commission approval.

Commissioners Vogt, Wilson and Martin all liked the idea that the zoning amendment go to the City Commission. They recognized that there was only a two week difference between the two options and it would not hold up a project, especially given no other community would be approving zoning amendments in 1.5 months. City Manager Gary Huff thought it was a good decision to go to the City Commission and approve by Resolution. The next step is to amend the City Code to reflect the change from approval by ordinance to a resolution.

The third item on the agenda was presented by City Manager Huff regarding the City's mission statement and values. He indicated that the employees did not know the mission statement because it is too long. He said it needs to be quick so you can rattle it off and simple so employees remember it. The last update was in 2006. CM Huff wants the Commission to adopt the mission statement by resolution and then start using it in various places. He indicated the simpler the better and it was an internal issue to have a mission statement employees could remember and work by. The mission statement presented is "Serving with Excellence and Integrity." CM Huff also discussed the City's values which have been shortened. The values presented are: Teamwork, Ethics, Service, Integrity and Trust.

Commissioner Vogt said the 2006 and 2014 values are the same, just concentrated. Commissioner Terry thought that when the 2006 values were presented there was community input. The Mission Statement and Values will come before Commission sometime in the future.

Although not a topic on the agenda, City Manager Huff informed the Commissioners that salt for the winter could be a major issue due to the shortage and limited supply. The City ordered 3,000 tons and only received 1,300 ton. The shortage is partly based on the demand from last year. The order was filled based on what supply the City had remaining from 2013. A lot more brine will have to be used. Side streets may not be salted dependent on the supply. Commissioner Vogt indicated everyone just needs to be careful. Commissioner Wilson questioned whether other options are available such as beat juice and sand but City Manager Huff indicated those options are more

expensive and less friendly to the environment. The cost of salt went from \$52 per ton in 2013 to \$115 per ton this year.

City Manager Huff announced he would be attending the ICMA conference.

Commissioner Martin made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Terry seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Stacy M. Wall, Law Director