

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 21, 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, Vogt, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: None.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the October 7, 2014 Regular City Commission Meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

An Ordinance amending sections 154.141 of the City of Piqua Code of Ordinances to allow a zoning designation change to be enacted by a Resolution.

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner provided the Staff Report.

A request from the City Commission was forwarded to the Piqua Planning Commission for a proposed amendment to the zoning code that pertains to the handling of a change in the zoning designation of a property or properties was considered. Two options were presented to the Planning Commission for review.

Option 1 would allow for a change in a zoning designation to be addressed at the Planning Commission level with no additional action required by the City Commission and would reduce the length of the process to approximately 30-45 days, Option 2 would require the Planning Commission to study the request and provide a recommendation to the City Commission for final action in the form of a Resolution as opposed to the current requirement that it be considered in the form of an Ordinance. The 2nd option would reduce the approval process to be approximately 45-60 days. After review by the Planning Commission they concluded that the second option would be the best option, allowing the City Commission to act on such matters by resolution, and recommended the amendment to the code to reflect this option, said Mr. Schmiesing.

Ordinance No. 13-14 was given a second reading.

ORD. NO. 14-14 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 77.01-Traffic Schedules adopted, Schedule IV and Schedule VII of the Piqua Code, relating to four-way stop intersections and traffic control devices pertaining to the High Street/College Street intersection

Amy Havenar, City Engineer provided the Staff Report.

This intersection was included in the original grant request to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission as part of the College Street Corridor Traffic Signal Project that was completed this past summer. However, after a study was completed it was determined by the Ohio Department

of Transportation (ODOT) that the traffic signal at High and College Street was not warranted. Therefore, ODOT would not provide funding for this signal. After determining the traffic signal was not warranted the study proceeded to evaluate the justification of a multi-way stop at this intersection. Based upon the criteria for multi-way stops this intersection is justified and was recommended for a 4-way stop.

Due to the timing of making the proposed changes with the resurfacing and installation of new pavement marking on both College and High Streets the left turn signal signals will be covered up and the dedicated left turn lanes will be removed so the intersection will operate as a traffic signal with no dedicated left turn lanes until the Commission makes recommendation on this Ordinance. This will also allow for the inclusion of on-street parking on all of the approaches leading up to this intersection, which is severely lacking in this area, stated Ms. Havenar.

The only cost to the city will be for the new stop signs which the Sign Shop can make in-house. This will also recognize a long-term savings with not having to maintain/operate the traffic signal at this intersection, said Mr. Havenar.

Commissioner Terry voiced her concern over the removal of the traffic signal stating she feels it is a very busy intersection, and asked what the criteria was to keep the traffic signal, and if parking will be available with the removal of the traffic signal and the turn lane.

Ms. Havenar explained the reason for the removal of the traffic signal at this, further stating she did not have the information with her for Commissioner Terry, but will make sure she gets the information.

Commissioner Vogt voiced his concern over the removal of the turning lanes, and asked if it would be a regular 4-way stop similar to the one located at South and Sunset, which is working out very well. Change is hard, and we will have to get use to it, but this is progress and for the betterment of the community, said Commissioner Vogt.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the requirements have changed since the traffic signals were installed. Ms. Havenar stated she was not sure at this time.

Commissioner Terry asked if there were any future plans to remove the traffic signals at Ash & North streets. Ms. Havenar stated they are part of the Safe Routes to School program and explained.

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

RES. NO. R-111-14

A Resolution authorizing an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft to participate in the Navigational Aid Grant Program

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner provided the Staff Report.

The ODNR Grant will provide low dam warning signage to local governments for installation at low dams on rivers within the community. The signage provides river users with advance warning of the hazardous conditions that are typical at low dam locations, stated Mr. Schmiesing. Both of the low dam structures on the Great Miami River in Piqua currently lack advance warning signage at this time. This grant if authorized will secure the appropriate signage for both the Water Treatment Plant Low Dam located at the north edge of town, and the Power Plant Low Dam located at the south edge of town.

Several questions were raised concern the location of the signage, and the locations for taking canoes and kyaks out of the water before reaching the Dam areas. Mr. Schmiesing explained.

Mayor Fess stated she forgot to mention at the beginning of the meeting that City Manager Huff was under the weather, and Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Justin Sommer was sitting in for Mr. Huff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-111-14.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-111-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Wilson, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-111-14 adopted.

RES. NO. R-112-14

A Resolution to approve a replat of lots in Indian Ridge Sections 5 and 6

Chris Schmiesing provided the Staff Report.

The original plat of Indian Ridge Sections 5 & 6 included single family residential lots. Following the original platting of the subdivision a previous developer of the subdivision requested many of the lots in those two sections be replatted to be zero lot line two family lots, and at a later date subsequently asked for a number of those lots be replatted back to one family lots.

The current developer has repositioned the subdivision to attract renewed interest in construction of single family dwelling units, and has recently completed two new single family housing units and anticipates more home starts in the coming months. The developer is requesting that all of the remaining undeveloped lots in the control of the developer be replatted to one family lots, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

This request was presented to the Planning Commission and they recommended approval, said Mr. Schmiesing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob and Julie Alexander, developers of the lots came forward and provided a brief overview of their plans for the replatted lots. Mr. Alexander stated they installed a Park and playground equipment.recently, and have their first Model Home ready for the Open House this weekend.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-101-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Wilson, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-101-14 adopted.

RES. NO. R-102-14

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-102-14.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-112-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Wilson, Terry, and Martin. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-112-14 adopted.

RES. NO. 113-14

A Resolution adopting a Mission Statement for the City of Piqua

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

Mr. Sommer stated the current Mission Statement was developed in 2006 and staff and City Manager Huff would like to revise it to reflect the City today.

2006 Mission Statement

Promote the health, safety and welfare of the community, through efficient and effective delivery of services based on addressing the needs of, and making continuing improvements in the city, in partnership with the community.

2014 Mission Statement (Proposed)

To Serve with Excellence and Integrity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-113-14.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-113-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Fess, Wilson, and Terry. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-113-14 adopted.

RES. NO. R-114-14

A Resolution authorizing the City of Piqua to apply for financial assistance from the Clean Ohio Fund-Green Conservation Program

Devon Alexander Storm Water Coordinator presented the Staff Report.

The Storm Water Department has capital money set aside for construction cost for the West Interceptor to Echo Lake project. Since being notified of the grant opportunity we are still able to apply for funding. If chosen it would allow roughly \$199,000 to be put back into the Storm Water funds for other projects.

The cost of construction for the project is roughly \$265,549.00 and if the grant is received it would cover 75% (199,162.00) with the city's local match of 25% (\$66,387.00).

Commissioner Terry asked Mr. Alexander to provide information on what the West Interceptor does and where it is located. Mr. Alexander explained.

Commissioners asked several other questions concerning the West Interceptor and the part it plays within the water system.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-114-14.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-114-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Martin, Vogt, Fess, and Wilson. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-114-14 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and voiced his support for the Fire and Police Levy on the November 4th, 2014 ballot, and encouraged citizens to get out and vote.

Bob Bloom, President of Piqua Firefighters Union, came forward and provided statistics and background on the need for passage of the one-quarter percent income tax levy on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Bloom stating this is a very critical levy and Piqua really needs this, and encouraged citizens to get out and vote on November 4, 2014.

Jim Vetter, President of the Southview Neighborhood Association along with two members Cindy Pearson and John Monroe came forward to present a Minute of Support from the Southview Neighborhood Association to the City of Piqua for the passage of the Fire & Police Safety Levy on the November 4, 2014 Ballot.

Mayor Fess accepted the Minute of Support and thanked the Southview Neighborhood Association for the support.

Susan Curtis, works Miami Valley Steel on Commerce Drive came forward to thank the City of Piqua for establishing the Bike Lanes along Co. Rd. 25—A. Ms. Curtis stated they have a Health and Wellness program and with the new bike lanes this will allow employees to ride their bicycles to work.

Jim Burkhardt, Westview Drive came forward and thanked the City of Piqua for allowing them to use the Lock 9 Park for their recent event Down the River Down a Beer. Due to unfavorable weather they had to move the event from the Lock 9 Park to Edison State College, their backup location. Mr. Burkhardt stated a great time was had by all attendees, and they would like to do it again next year.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sommer stated the Dedication Ceremony for the Power Plant Waterfront Restoration Project was held on Thursday October 16, 2014. This is a great example of how we are utilizing our resources along the waterways.

Mr. Sommer announced the Dedication Ceremony for the Piqua Trail Town will be held on Thursday, October 23, at 12:00 P.M. at French Park and encouraged citizens to attend.

Mr. Sommer announced the City Commission 2015 Budget Review Sessions will be held on November 13 and November 23, 2014.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vogt reminded citizens to get out and vote on November 4 and to remember the Fire & Police Levy are very important to the citizens of Piqua.

Commissioner Vogt stated Piqua has had a lot of changes recently with the installation of the new bike lanes and the removal of traffic signals. Progress is very important to the City of Piqua and things change and we have to change with them if we want to move forward, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Commissioner Vogt also reminded citizens to be careful and watch out for children crossing the streets on October 30, as it is Trick or treat night in Miami County.

Commissioner Martin thanked Mr. Burkhardt and his committee for the Down the River Down a Beer event and hopes they make it an annual event. Commissioner Martin also encouraged citizen to get out and vote on November 4, 2014.

Commissioner Terry stated the new SPIRIT Newsletter is out and there is an article on the 2014 Public Safety Income Tax Referendum with questions and answers, and encouraged citizen to read the article, to get out and vote.

Commissioner Terry announced the Meet the Candidate Night is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 7:30 P.M. at the YWCA

Commissioner Wilson stated Friends of the Piqua Library recently held a German Oktoberfest on October 17, in the main lobby of the Library. .Guests enjoyed good food and music. "This is the first time I drank beer in the Library without getting arrested," commented Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Wilson also encouraged citizens to donate to Marks Toys for Tots by donating money so that every child in Piqua that wants a bicycle for Christmas receives one. The Salvation Army is providing a list of children asking for bicycles this Christmas. They have already received enough money to purchase 40 bikes so far, stated Commissioner Wilson. Contact Mark Reedy at 937-778-1353 for further information or to donate.

Mayor Fess announced the Meet the Candidate forum held at the YWCA on October 22, would be broadcast live on WPTW if citizens could not attend.

Mayor Fess announced the Piqua Munch Bunch Program for students in grades K-6 who do not have enough food to eat on the weekends is holding a fundraiser at Bob Evans October 23, 24, and 25th. Just present the flyer when paying your bill any of the three days and a percentage of the proceeds goes to the Piqua Munch Bunch Program, stated Mayor Fess.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 8:20 P.M Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Wilson. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION