

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 4, 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

PRESENTATION: FRIENDS OF PIQUA PARKS – MR. GLEN DEVERS

Edna Stiefel provided a brief update on the progress the Friends of the Piqua Parks have made on raising funds for the William Pitsenbarger Statue. Numerous trees have been planted, a flag pole and an American flag have been donated by the Piqua Rotary Club, concrete and installation is being donated by Piqua Concrete, stated Ms. Stiefel. The Piqua Central Class of 1962 and the Friends of the Piqua Parks have raised about \$50,000 and still need the citizens to continue their help to complete this project.

On Tuesday, November 11, 2014 the 311 Drafthouse will hold a fund raiser to help support the Friends of the Piqua Parks project beginning at 5:00 P.M. and invite citizens to stop in.

Donations can be sent to The Friends of the Piqua Parks, P. O. Box 270, Piqua, Ohio 45356, stated Ms. Stiefel.

Mayor Fess thanked Ms. Stiefel for her presentation and all who have supported the Friends of the Piqua Parks with their donations.

City Manager Gary Huff stated last year about \$15,000 was raised by the Friends of the Piqua Parks for the landscaping at Pitsenbarger Park.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the October 21, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 13-14 (3rdrd 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.

This is the third reading of Ordinance No. 13-14, on a request from the City Commission that 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. The Planning Commission reviews the request and provides a recommendation to the City Commission for final action in the form of a resolution. This would reduce the approval process to approximately 30-45 days instead of the 3 months previously, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commission Wilson, that Ordinance No, 13-14 be adopted. Roll call: Aye, Fess, Wilson, Terry, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. NO. 14-14 (2nd 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 is the second reading for Ordinance No. 14-14. 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.

City Manager Huff stated he only received on concern over the removal of the traffic signal.

Commissioners voiced several concerns they have regarding the reason for the removal of the traffic signal. What affect will it have on the residents in the immediate area, which includes Senior Housing. Other concerns raised were the installation of parking again on the streets, the removal of the designated turning lanes, and if there would be designated crosswalks like in the downtown area. The cost of maintaining the traffic signals was voiced and if the other traffic signals at Ash, Greene, and North Streets were going to be removed in the future.

One of the questions raised by Commission was if the residents in the area were notified previously of the intent to remove the traffic signals. City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated yes, a public hearing was held by the Planning Commission, and the immediate area property owners were sent letters, There was concern raised about the transition and if the Commission would be able to see the change before voting on it. Amy Havenar, City Engineer explained.

Public Comment

Ruth Koon, Park Avenue, came forward and voiced her opinion on the removal of the traffic signal at this time. Ms. Koon stated traffic is congested on College street now with all of the various alleys and businesses located in the area, and feels narrowing the intersection will cause more congestions.

Edna Stiefel, Boone Street, stated she has been asked by several people why the traffic signal on College and High Streets are partially covered now. Ms. Havenar explained.

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

RES. NO. R-115-14

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to E.H. Wachs for the purchase of a valve maintenance trailer

Shane Johnson, Assistant Underground Utilities Supervisor provided the Staff Report.

This piece of equipment is specifically designed for the maintenance and operation of the city's water distribution system valves. This system is completely self-contained, is fully automated, and features a valve vacuum system that cleans debris from valve boxes. This system comes complete with Wachs VITALS software, GPS receiving equipment, and an automated controller ensuring AWWA standards are followed during the valve exercise operation, stated Mr. Johnson.

Previously this year the Underground Utilities Department rented this piece of equipment for \$4000 per month, and for the first time in Piqua's history was able to exercise all 960 of the city's inline water valves by working two shifts throughout the whole month. By purchasing this piece of equipment it will allow the city to utilize the VMT during emergency situations as well as normal operations and conduct valve exercising programs on an annual basis, stated Mr. Johnson.

Underground Utilities received grant funding from the Ohio BWC Safety Grant Program in the amount of \$40,000 toward the purchase of this piece of equipment. \$61,480 was budgeted and with the grant the city's share is only \$21,480.

Several questions were raised concerning the use and of the cost savings, and the expected life of the equipment. Mr. Johnson answered all questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-115-14.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-115-14 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Wilson, Terry, Martin, and Fess. Nay, None. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-115-14 adopted.

Monthly Reports

Monthly Reports were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim and Scott Piper, Wilshire Drive, came forward stating they moved to Piqua in January of this year, and commented on how welcoming the community has been, and that they are enjoying the wonderful amenities that are offered. Ms. Piper further stated she has been impressed with the people they have met, and the professionalism of the all of the different providers that are working for the community. Ms. Piper specifically thanked Police Chief Jamison, Chris Schmiesing, the Chamber of Commerce, the City staff and Commissioners. Also Commissioner Terry for being such a good friend to the Piqua City Schools.

Mayor Fess thanked Ms. Piper for her comments and welcomed them to the City of Piqua.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Huff announced the new City of Piqua website will be available for viewing next month, and will have a fresh new look.

City Manager Huff stated the work on the Downtown Development Project is moving along.

City Manager Huff announced the crack sealing process will begin the week of November 17th.

City Manager Huff stated the City Managers of Miami County will be meeting next week to continue discussion on House Bill 5.

City Manager Huff announced all of the paving has been completed and manhole adjustments have been made, with a total of 23 streets being repaved this year.

City Manager Huff stated the 2015 Budget Reviews are scheduled for Thursday November 13, covering the Enterprise Funds, Streets, and Community Development in the Administrative Conference Room at 6:00 P.M. Also on Thursday, November 20th will be covering the General Fund at 6:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room.

City Manager Huff announced the Piqua Fire Department is holding an Open House this evening in the Fire Department. Everyone is welcome to stop by and view the elections results of the Safety Service Levy that was on the ballot.

Commissioner Wilson asked City Manager Huff to review the Leaf Collection schedule. City Manager Huff stated they are actively working at this time, and the schedule will be posted on the Piqua website.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Terry stated she hopes to party with the members of the Safety Committee at the Fire Department when the results come in on the passage of the Safety Service Levy.

Commissioner Wilson also stated he plans on being at the Fire Department to see the results of the Safety Service Levy.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 8:15 P.M and adjourn into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline or compensation of the City Manager. Roll call:, Aye: Fess, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Wilson. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn from Executive Session and the Regular City Commission Meeting at 9:14 P.M. Voice vote: Aye, Martin, Terry, Vogt, Fess and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____

REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION