

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 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. Absent: None

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move to Executive Session to consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to move into Executive Session at 7:31 P.M. to consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to adjourn from Executive Session and convene as the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:46 P.M.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Don Kuchta came forward stating the comments he made on Ordinance No. 3-15 were not included in the Minutes of the February 17th Piqua City Commission Meeting, and he would like to have them included for the record.

Approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2015 Piqua City Commission Work Session only, as the Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2015 were tabled at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the Piqua City Commission Work Session Minutes. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Terry, Fess, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson to table the February 17, 2015 Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes at this time. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 3-15 (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

City Engineer, Amy Havenar provided the Staff Report.

In May of 2012, the City was notified of our award of a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the construction of infrastructure projects around the Piqua Junior High School site, Washington Intermediate School site, and the Wilder Intermediate School site. As a part of these construction improvements, there will be modifications to the traffic control devices within the project limits. The following areas will be modified:

- Park Avenue & Westview Drive – Convert from 2-way stop to a 4-way stop.
- Park Avenue & Parkway Drive – Convert from 2-way stop to a 4-way stop.

- College Street & Ash Street – Remove existing traffic signal and make a 2-way stop with Ash Street being the stop street.
- College Street & Greene Street – Remove existing traffic signal and make a 2-way stop with Greene Street being the stop street.
- College Street & North Street – Remove existing traffic signal and make a 2-way stop with North Street being the stop street.
- Broadway & North Street – Remove existing traffic signal and make a 2-way stop with North Street being the stop street.
- Downing Street and W. High Street – Remove the existing traffic signal and make a 4-way stop.
- Downing Street and Ash Street – Remove existing traffic signal and make a 4-way stop.

City Manager Huff provided a brief overview of the changes and how they were designated. Because the Commission was so concerned about keeping the traffic signal at Broadway and North streets, it can be taken out of the design at this time without causing any problems, stated City Manager Huff.

There was discussion about amending the Ordinance No. 3-15 to remove the traffic signal at the intersection of Broadway and North from Ordinance No. 3-15 at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Kuchta, Walker Street came forward stating he would also like to see the traffic signal at the intersection of Downing and High Street not be taken out at this time. Mr. Kuchta is still concerned about the long stretch on College Street if the traffic signals are taken out because of pedestrian traffic. Mr. Kuchta stated he is concerned too about the rapid flashing lights, and the safety of the pedestrians crossing at the signal as yellow does not mean stop.

Ron Cooper, W. High Street, came forward and voiced his opinion on removing the traffic signal at Broadway and North, stating he feels there should be a traffic signal or stop sign somewhere on College Street, and would also like to see the traffic signal stay at Downing and High Streets.

Joe Francis, W. Parkway Drive, came forward and expressed his opinion stating that not once has ever seen a citizen's opinion change the opinion of the City Commission, but as soon as two Commissioners want the traffic signal to stay it stays. Mayor Fess stated she too would like the traffic signal to stay, and that is more than two Commissioners.

Linda Henry, Boone Street came forward stating she has a child that attends Piqua Catholic School and does not like the idea of removing the traffic signals on College Street as her children have to cross College Street to get to school.

Jim McMaken, Miami County YMCA, he would still like to have a four-way stop at the intersection of High and Downing, and to also consider installing bump-outs at the intersection of High and Downing Streets to slow down traffic in the area..

Nick Alexander, Roosevelt, came forward and expressed his opinion about the Bike Path lane along Greene Street by French Oil, and asked that the city look at the section of pedestrian crossing there also. City Manager Huff stated they would look into it.

Mayor Fess stated when the changes go into effect there will be a period of time the city will be able to make certain changes if necessary, and after ODOT has completed the project and it comes back to the Commission, the Commission can recommend changes, and if a 4-way stop is warranted it can be added in the future.

Commissioner Vogt stated he understands the concerns of the citizens, who spoke, but the State has completed the traffic study, and this is a workable solution.

Mayor Fess stated this is not set in stone if it is passed, but the City will continue to review this and if it is not working changes can be made.

Commissioner Terry commented while in she was in Florida she saw an accident where the flashing signals were being used for pedestrian crossing, and is concerned about children using them. Commissioner Terry stated the 4-way stop at College and High Street is working well, and if any problem occurs on College Street at Greene Street we can add a stop in the future, and is also concerned if bump-outs are being considered on College Street.

Mayor Fess stated all of the Commissioners are in agreement that this is something that should be followed up to make sure the corners are safe..

Commissioner Vogt stated he would like to see the turn lanes taken out at the corner of High and Downing Streets, as there could be two more parking spaces utilized instead.

Mayor Fess stated the 4-way stop at High and College is working well.

Commissioner Terry stated the corner by the Post Office use to have a traffic signal, and it now has a 4-way stop with traffic moving smoother now, as they are stopping and looking all ways.

Ms. Huffman, Fisher Drive came forward and asked if the study that was completed counted kids using the intersection?

Amy Havenar, City Engineer, explained how the study was completed.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to amend Ordinance No. 3-15, Section 1, Schedule VII, Traffic Control Devices, to remove Broadway & North Street from the Ordinance at this time. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Martin, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay; None.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Wilson to adopt Ordinance No. 3-15, as amended. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Fess, Wilson, and Terry. Nay: Vogt. Ordinance No. 3-15 was adopted, as amended on a 4-1 vote.

ORD. No. 4-15

An Ordinance amending Section 94.21 of the Piqua Code, relating to fees for use of Park Facilities

Brian Brookhart, Assistant Public Works Director, provided the Staff Report.

At the most recent Park Board Meeting the Park Board members unanimously approved raising the Fees relating to the use of Park Facilities. The last time the fees for Park Facilities were raised was in 2009, stated Mr. Brookhart. The increase in Fees will help offset the operating cost and maintenance on the buildings. The proposed increases provides a discounted rate to those who live within the Piqua corporation limits.

Commissioners raised several questions concerning the increase in the fees and asked what percentage the discount is to Piqua residents, the lease/ rent charged for the house in Hollow Park. Commissioner Vogt stated he felt the rent on the house at Hollow Park was to low, and asked if they would look into raising the rent. Law Director Stacy Wall stated they would have to look at the lease before making any changes. Mayor Fess asked if a City employee still lived in the house at Hollow Park. Mr. Brookhart stated yes, one of the Parks employees lives in the house, but is responsible for opening and closing the gates to Hollow Park in the morning and evenings, and reporting any incidents that occur in the Park.

Mayor Fess stated this is the first reading of Ordinance No. 4-15 and they will look into the questions raised by Commissioners.

Ordinance No. 4-15 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-31-15

An Emergency Resolution authorizing a purchase order to Valley Asphalt Corp. for the purchase of road salt for the Street Department

Doug Harter, Public Works Director provided the Staff Report.

This year the city has been extremely conservative with the road salt usage, and used the salt brine and calcium chloride application. These alternative chemicals are available at a less expensive price and are fairly easy to manage and control. At this time the city is in desperate need to purchase more road salt. We have use the SWOP-4G contract and now they are not able to supply the city with any additional salt at this time. They referred the city to Valley Asphalt Corp. as an alternative supplier. Valley Asphalt Corp charged the city \$150/ton to deliver salt to the city facility in February and would like to request permission to purchase an additional 500 tons of salt for future weather events, stated Mr. Harter.

Commissioners asked several questions regarding the price of salt and where it was coming from.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-31-15.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-31-15 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-31-15 adopted.

RES. NO. R-32-15

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to Lebanon Ford for the purchase of three Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles

Tom Steiner, Deputy Chief of Police provided the Staff Report.

In 2013 the Police Department started a strategic fleet replacement plan by purchasing two police utility vehicles to replace two Ford Expeditions used by supervisors. We were very pleased with the performance and functionality of the vehicles and decided to use them for routine patrol duties. Three additional units were purchased in 2014, and the additional of three more units in 2015 will continue the planned replacement. Bids were experimented with in 2013 to see if the city could do any better than the State Contract, but did not receive any bid requests at that time.

Previously the Police Department purchased Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI) as marked cruiser prior to the model being discontinued in 2011. Previously all of the barriers, light bars and other safety equipment, and lighting were able to be transferred from the old vehicle to the new vehicle, but not now. Much of the older equipment will not fit on the new model vehicles and is outdated or unreliable, stated Deputy Chief Steiner.

The total life expectancy of the vehicles in the current fleet plan is five years. Up fitting new vehicles with new light bars, siren controllers, and partitions limits the amount of time the vehicles and related equipment are out of warranty decreasing maintenance costs.

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-32-15.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-32-15 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Martin, Vogt, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No R-32-15 adopted.

RES. NO. R-33-15

A Resolution authorizing a purchase order to KE Rose Company for purchase and installation of specialized equipment in Police vehicles

Tom Steiner, Deputy Chief of Police provided the Staff Report.

When the Police Department was able to being a new vehicle replacement program in 2013, quotes were received on the purchase and installation of new equipment for the cruisers. KE Rose was selected as the vendor to purchase and install the equipment, as well as removing the old equipment. The Police department has been very satisfied with the workmanship and Service provided by KE Rose., stated Deputy Chief Steiner.

The Police Department intends to continue to use KE Rose to purchase and install specialized aftermarket equipment. By using the same vendor it allows for standardization and consistency of equipment which may need to be used by multiple employees in emergency situations.

Commissioner Martin inquired as to why formal bids were not sent out, and voiced his concern over formal bids not being sent out. Deputy Chief Steiner explained the reason for not sending out formal bids. Commissioners asked several other questions that were answered by Deputy Chief Steiner.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-33-15

Commissioner Martin made a motion to table Resolution No. R-33-15 until formal bids could be sent out, Commissioner Vogt seconded the motion to table Resolution No. R-33-15. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Terry, Wilson, and Fess. Nay, None.

Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-33-15 tabled at this time.

RES. NO. R-34-15

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase property located at 534-536 W. Water Street

RES. NO. R-35-15

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase property located at 628-630 W. Water Street

RES. NO. R-36-15

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase property located at 403-405 South Street

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner provided the Staff Report for Resolutions R-34-15, R-35-15, and R-36-15.

The subject REO properties (lender real estate owned after an unsuccessful sale at a foreclosure auction) are now owned by United National Bank who desires to donate the properties to the City of Piqua Land Reutilization Program. Receipt of these properties will result in the rehabilitation or demolition of the existing improvements and the elimination of any substandard housing conditions found at these locations, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

By the City accepting the donation it will cause the City to incur a couple hundred dollars in recording fees incidental to the transfer of the property deed.

City Manager Huff provided a brief overview of the future of the properties.

Commissioner Terry stated it is not good to let properties get into such a state of disrepair, further

stating the city needs to have stronger ordinances and property maintenance codes.

Mayor Fess stated it was generous of Unity National Bank to offer these properties to the City of Piqua, and hopes other lending institutions will do the same in the future.

Public Comment

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street, voiced his opinion about changing the ordinances to include the banks when property is owned by them and in disrepair. Mr. Boehringer also stated the City HELP program should be able to help rehab some of the houses in disrepair.

City Manager Huff provided a brief overview of the some of the other programs that can help citizens including the CDBG program. The Development Department and the New Program Director are working hard to get things in place for homeowners.

Mayor Fess stated the banks did not let the properties get in such bad shape, they ended up with them when the property owners did not take care of them.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-34-15, be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Vogt, Wilson, Terry, and Fess. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolutions No. R-34-15 adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-35-15, be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Martin, Vogt, Wilson, and Terry. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolutions No. R-35-15 adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-36-15, be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Fess, Martin, Vogt, and Wilson. Nay, None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolutions No. R-36-15 adopted.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak at this time.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Huff reminded Commissioners to turn in their ballots for the Boards and Committees.

There are still several more Board openings if anyone is interested to contact the City Manager's Office for more information.

City Manager Huff commented on the number of citizen complaints received on the utility rates, and provided a brief summary of the causes and findings. City Manager Huff stated there are booklets available in the Utility Office Lobby with tips that will help citizens to keep their utility costs down. City Manager Huff further stated the City of Piqua is willing to work with citizens they just have to call or come in and sit down with staff.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Wilson announce the Kiwanis Pancake Days will take place on Saturday March 14, 2015 from 7:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. at the Upper Valley Career Center, and encouraged citizens to come out and support the Kiwanis.

Commissioner Terry stated the city will monitor the Safe Routes to School Program and the changes, and if problems occur changes can be made if necessary.

Commissioner Vogt stated he made the motion to amend Ordinance No. 3-15 and then voted no, further stating he did not believe it was a good ordinance at this time.

Commissioner Vogt publically apologized to Bill Jaqua for the statements he made to him at the previous Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Vogt also stated he was upset about the way citizens were complaining to him about the streets and the lack of snow removal by the city.

Mayor Fess stated tickets for Dancing with the Piqua Stars will go on sale at Hallmark on Saturday March 7, 2015. Dancing with the Piqua Stars will take place April 11 and the City Law Director Stacy Wall, and Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Justin Sommer will be two of the celebrity participants this year. Mayor Fess encouraged citizens to come out and support the Piqua Arts Council's Dancing with the Piqua Stars.

Mayor Fees also reminded citizens to support the Piqua Kiwanis Club Pancake Days on March 14, 2015, at the Upper Valley Career Center, and provided a brief background on the Kiwanis Club.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Commission Meeting at 9:00 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION