

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 17, 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, and Vogt. Absent: Martin.

Mayor Fess stated Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Justin Sommer was sitting in for City Manager Huff due to a family illness.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to excuse Commissioner Martin from the November 17, 2015 Piqua City Commission Meeting. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Vogt, and Terry. Nay, None.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the November 3, 2015 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting.

RES. NO. R-147-15

A Resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

RES. NO. R-148-15

A Resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

RES. NO. R-149-15

A Resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RES. NO. R-150-15

A Resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

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

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 12-15 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance repealing Schedule A of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code and adopting a new Schedule A of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code, relating to wages of certain Municipal Employees

Cindy Holtzapple, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, provided the Staff Report.

Ms. Holtzapple stated the employees covered by Schedule A (non-union) will receive a 2% increase in 2016. This has been included in the 2016 appropriations.

Ordinance No. 12-15 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 13-15 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance repealing Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code and adopting a new Schedule A-1 of Chapter 33 of the Piqua Code, relating to wages of certain Municipal Employees

Cindy Holtzapple, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, provided the Staff Report.

For the past several years it has been more difficult to recruit and retain lifeguards for the Piqua Pool due in part to the cost of the certification. Previously, there were pay increases for each step for lifeguards, but due to the increases in minimum wages the difference between the steps became smaller. Schedule A-1 adjusts those steps. The pay for Assistant Pool Manager and also been adjusted, and an additional step has been added to those employees who work at the golf course in the club house and attending carts, stated Ms. Holtzapple.

Ordinance No. 13-15 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 14-15 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance repealing Chapter 33.08 and enacting a new Chapter 33.08 of the Piqua Code, relating to Employee Insurance

Cindy Holtzapple, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, provided the Staff Report.

Ms. Holtzapple stated the changes to Chapter 33.08 reflect the new benefit year of 2016, everything else in Chapter 33.08 remains the same.

Ordinance No. 14-15 was given a first reading.

ORD. NO. 15-15 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No, 33-66, relating to the Municipal Income Tax

Cindy Holtzapple, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, provided the Staff Report.

With the passage of HB5 in December 2014, and the required creation of a new income tax Chapter 38, there is a need to update the ordinance to keep in conformity with the new tax code beginning January 1, 2016.

Al Fledderman, Harney Drive, came forward and ask if it would be possible for him to get a copy of the proposed changes, and if all the changes were due to House Bill 5?

Mayor Fess stated they would see that Mr. Fledderman receives a copy of the proposed changes.

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

ORD. NO. 16-15 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio for the year 2016

Cindy Holtzapple, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, provided the Staff Report.

Ms. Holtzapple stated each year the City is required to present and pass the 2016 Annual Budget by the end of the year. This is the first of three readings of the Ordinance. The City Commission will review the Department Budgets on November 19, 2015, at 4:00 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex and the meeting is open to the public.

Ordinance No. 16-15 was given a first reading.

ORD NO. 17-15 (1ST Reading)

An Ordinance to vacate a portion of Public Right-of-Way

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner provided the Staff Report.

The applicant is requesting to vacate a platted portion of an alley right of way between Main Street and Wayne Street. The subject right of way is not currently being use for public purposes. The Planning Commission held the Public Heard on November 10, and there were a few of the neighbors in attendance, all were in favor of vacating the right of way, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

Ordinance No. 17-15 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-151-15

A resolution of intent to vacate Public Right-of-Way

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner, provided the Staff Report.

The applicant has requested to vacate a platted portion of an alley right of way located west of Ford Drive and south of Young Street. The subject right of way is not currently being used for public purposes at this time.

Mr. Schmiesing stated he is asking the City Commission to approve the intent to vacate the platted portion of an alley right of way so it can go to the Planning Commission for review in December.

Commissioner Vogt stated he is familiar with the property and know there has always been some concern over who owns it.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-151-15.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-151-15 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-151-15 adopted.

RES. NO. R-152-15

A Resolution authorizing AN AMENDMENT TO Zoning Map to change the zoning designation of 1417, 1421, and 1429 Covington Avenue to B (General Business)

Chris Schmiesing, City Planner, provided the Staff Report.

This item was presented to the Planning Commission in response to a petition requesting a change in the zoning designation at the subject property locations. Currently the properties are zoned R-3 Multi-Family Residential and the applicants have requested a B (General Business) zoning designation.

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing concerning this item on November 10, 2015. At the Public Hearing the Planning Commission heard from all of the property owners and their agents in support of this request. With reference to the City of Piqua Comprehensive Plan and the Development and Conservation Map, and citing the characteristic of the surround land uses, the Planning Commission recommended the approval of the B (General Business) zoning designation.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there would be a buffer between the business and any of the current residents in the area.

Mr. Schmiesing stated yes, and provided information regarding the zoning code.

Mayor Fess asked if the developer would make public their intent for the properties?

Mr. Schmiesing stated the developer is not sure yet what the plans are at this time.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-152-15.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-152-15 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Terry, Wilson, and, Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-152-15 adopted.

RES. NO. R-153-15

A Resolution approving the purchase of excess liability insurance

Stacy Wall, Law Director provided the Staff Report.

The City has had excess liability coverage for over 20 years for the dams and waterways. This is a specialty insurance that is beyond the scope of what MVRMA covers. Coverage has been looked at to ensure that there are no duplicate coverage area between MVRMA and AEGIS. The premium is increased by 1.8% to reflect market conditions, and the continued aging and the dams and the 7.5% increase in water revenues.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-153-15.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-153-15 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Vogt, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-153-15 adopted.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly Reports for September, 2015 were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Bubeck, Camp Street, came forward to voice his concern over the number of rental properties that are in need of repairs, and the lack of enforcement. Mr. Bubeck further stated he would like to see them threatened by court fines if they do not comply with the letters to clean up or make the needed repairs.

Mayor Fess stated the City is doing the best they can at this time, but in 2016 they plan to have a person dedicated to just property maintenance. We need more people like Mr. Bubeck to bring these properties to the city's attention to make the inspections, stated Mayor Fess. Citizens can contact their City Commissioner, Health Department, or the City Manager's Office to report a property.

Al Fledderman, Harney Drive, came forward stating he had taken his four year old granddaughter over to Pitsenbarger Park. She noticed the fence that had the children painted on it with the splashes of color and asked why there are not any girls on the fence just boys.

Mayor Fess stated we will have to check into that and see if we can get some girls painted on the fence also.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Sommer stated the City has become bike friendly community by implementing bike lanes and being a part of the Trail System connecting to Cincinnati. Chris Schmiesing has led that effort, and has been very active making the case that the city is a bike friendly community. It is nice to receive the formal recognition from the League of American Bicyclists and was announced that the City of Piqua has become one of thirteen communities in the State of Ohio to receive the Bronze Recognition.

Mr. Sommer announced Planet Fitness, a national chain, will be locating in Piqua East Ash Street, and will be opening in the Spring of 2016.

Mr. Sommer thanked the Friends of the Piqua Parks for the wonderful presentation and dedication of the Pitsenbarger Statue on Saturday November 14, 2015.

Mr. Sommer announced the City of Piqua Annual Budget Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 19, at 4:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room, in the Municipal Government Complex.

Mr. Sommer announced the Holiday Open House sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua will be held the weekend of November 20, 21, and encouraged citizens to shop locally.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Vogt stated he was very pleased with the attendance at the Pitsenbarger dedication held on Saturday, November 14, 2015, further stating it was long overdue.

Commissioner Vogt stated there are a number of citizens who are walking their dogs in Pitsenbarger Park, and reminded citizens to please clean up after their dogs.

Mr. Sommer stated there is a n off the leash dog park located at Hollow Park.

Commissioner Terry commented the Pitsenbarger Dedication was wonderful and agreed it was a long time coming. Commissioner Terry stated she met some of the family of Mr. Pitsenbarger and enjoyed seeing the picture and hearing their stories. Also the Wright Paterson Air Force Base Commander that attended the dedication had such glowing comments about William Pitsenbarger and was glad to be there.

Commissioner Wilson stated he also attended the Dedication and was happy to see they had the statue of William H. Pitsenbarger smiling. Commissioner Wilson also thanked all who donated to the Friends of the Piqua Parks for statue, further commenting on all of the hard work put in by the committee and Ruth Koon. This is indeed a caring community, stated Commissioner Wilson.

Mayor Fess thanked City Planner Chris Schmiesing for all his work for getting the designation of the Bicycle Friendly Community, as this is quite an honor with only thirteen communities in the State of Ohio it sets Piqua apart.

Mr. Schmiesing also stated there were a number of citizens in the community who very much involved, and continue to be very much involved in the efforts. They are the ones who deserve this recognition because it is through their passion and interest in this area things are able to happen. Piqua is one of 370 in the entire nation recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Mayor Fess stated that Mr. Schmiesing's leadership was a big part of the effort with help from all the citizens to make this possible.

Mayor Fess thanked Vice Mayor/Commissioner Vogt for representing her at the Pitsenbarger Dedication as she was out of town. Mayor Fess thanked the Friends of the Piqua Park for all they did to make this possible. Mayor Fess stated she came into town driving by the statue and saw the lights shining on it, it was breathtaking.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION