

PIQUA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
Thursday, January 14, 2016
7:30 P.M.

Piqua City Commission met at 7:30 A.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Hinds called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Wilson, Martin, and Vogt. Absent: Terry.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to excuse Commissioner Terry from the City Commission Work Session of January 14, 2016. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Hinds, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously to excuse Commissioner Terry.

Piqua City Commission Work Session

Commission Agenda Format

Mayor Hinds stated there are a number of communities that have a word of prayer at the beginning of their Commission meetings. Mayor Hinds said she would like to invite a different pastor from the community for each meeting to offer a small word of prayer. Both Dayton City Commission and Tipp City Commission do this, and the Senate has a Chaplin, stated Mayor Hinds.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons on the issue of having prayer at the beginning of the City Commission Meetings. Law Director Stacy Wall provided legal assistance on the problems that may occur with the various dominations of churches, and others providing their opinion on having a prayer, and the fact you cannot discriminate on allowing someone to offer prayer.

Law Director Wall stated it does not require a vote to proceed, but you would need to have the majority of the Commissioners in favor to move forward.

After discussion, the majority of the Commissioners present were not in favor of offering a prayer at the beginning of the City Commission Meetings. Mayor Hinds thanked the Commissioners for considering the offering of a prayer at the beginning of the Commission meeting.

There also was discussion of Public Comment at the Commission Meetings.

City Manager Huff stated there have been comments made about possibly having the Public Comment portion before the televised broadcast of the Commission Meeting. Roberts Rules of Order does not require Public Comment to be heard after each item, stated City Manager Huff.

Law Director Wall provided additional information regarding possibly moving Public Comment before the televised Commission Meeting.

Commissioners discussed various scenarios and ideas on where to have the Public Comment portion of the meeting, and if it would be possible to start the Public Comment portion at 7:30 P.M., have Public Comment until 7:45 P.M, then proceed with the Regular televised City Commission Meeting.

Law Director Wall stated that Public Comment is not part of a Business Meeting, and provided additional information on how to handle the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street, came forward stating the Troy City Commission has two public comment sessions, one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end of their meeting.

After discussion all Commissioners present were in favor of moving the non-televised Public Comment session before the City Commission Meeting at 7:30 P.M. – 7:45 P.M., and begin the televised Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:45 P.M. at this time.

Potential Charter Revisions

City Manager Huff stated several things have come up since the election that the Commission wanted to discuss, and if any changes are to be made to the Charter they would have to be submitted by August 1 to be on the November ballot.

The election process for Mayor and the filing process for candidates were discussed.

Law Director Wall provided information on the filing of petitions for candidates to the Board of Elections and provided information on the Piqua City Charter requirements.

Commissioners discussed various ideas on the Commissioners appointing a Mayor, or having the Mayor elected by the voters. The Clerk of Commission was asked if she knew when the Mayor seat was put on the ballot for election by the voters. Becky Cool, Clerk of Commission stated she has been Clerk since 1989 and the Mayor has always been elected since she has been Clerk. Ms. Cool stated she would do some research to find out when the Mayor seat was first put on the ballot for election, instead of being appointed by the Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed whether or not the Mayor seat should be a held by Commissioner for at least two years before holding the office of Mayor. Commissioners also discussed whether or not there should be term limits to holding a Commission or Mayor seat. City Manager Huff stated he would have Ms. Wall look at the options.

The November 2015 election seemed to be a little confusing when voting for Commissioner and Mayor. Also where to vote since some of the school locations have been demolished, stated Commissioner Vogt. It was noted that Attorney Mike Gutmann has offered to provide a workshop for new candidates that are interested in running for public office. Ms. Wall stated it is not the City of Piqua's job to provide information on filing for public office, and further explained, this information should be provided by the Board of Elections. Ms. Wall stated she thought that Mr. Gutmann's offer to provide a workshop was a good option to provide the information need.

2012-2016 Strategic Plan Update

City Manager Huff stated that he would like the Commissioners to think about having a Workshop Retreat maybe in September to put together and provide information for a new 5-year Strategic Plan.

Commissioner's also inquired about the cable television rates, and the possibility of an alternate cable company coming into the area. Also brought up were the negotiations of the gas turbine at the Power Plant with AMP Ohio.

City Manager Huff stated they were still looking into both the cable companies and the gas turbine at the Power Plant at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Piqua City Commission Work Session at 8:15 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Martin, Vogt, and Hinds. Nay, None.
Motion carried unanimously.

KATHRYN B. HINDS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION