

**PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

Appointment of second ward Commissioner

Frank Patrizio read the Oath of Office to Paul Simmons who will serve as second ward commissioner for four years.

Appointment of fifth ward Commissioner

Frank Patrizio read the Oath of Office Frank DeBrosse who will serve as fifth ward commissioner for four years.

Appointment of Mayor

Vice Mayor Lee asked for a nomination for the mayor seat. Commissioner Vetter made a motion to nominate Kris Lee as Mayor and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and all were in favor.

Frank Patrizio gave the Oath of Office to Commissioner Lee who will serve as Mayor for two years.

Appointment of Vice Mayor

Mayor Lee asked for a nomination for the Vice Mayor seat. Mayor Lee made a motion to nominate James Vetter as Vice Mayor and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and all were in favor.

Frank Patrizio gave the Oath of Office to Commissioner Vetter who will serve as Vice Mayor for two years.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the December 12, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. R-7-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Governing Board of the Piqua Improvement Corporation (PIC)

Commissioner DeBrosse was appointed to the PIC Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-8-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

Commissioner Vetter was appointed to the Energy Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-9-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

Commissioner Hohman was appointed to the Energy Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-10-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC)

Commissioner Simmons was appointed to the MVRPC board

RESOLUTION NO. R-11-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Grow Piqua Now Board (GPN)

Commissioner DeBrosse was appointed to the Grow Piqua Now Board

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve the Consent Agenda and Mayor Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-1-24

A resolution of appreciation for the public service of Brent E Pohlschneider as a city employee

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve the resolution and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-2-24

A resolution approving the purchase of Liability insurance for Piqua's hydraulic dam system, canal, and other utilities.

Introduction: Kevin Krejny said this is a yearly renewal which provides protection for our dam. This is liability insurance that MVRMA won't cover.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee asked how much the premium increased and if it's the same coverage. Kevin Krejny replied that it went up 15% and it is the same coverage. Kevin said it is based on 2015-2018 claims. Mayor Lee asked how many claims we had, and Kevin said the City of Piqua didn't have any.

Public Comment: Dave Smith asked if the city shopped around. Kevin Krejny said that we did not this year because several years ago when we did ask for quotes, no one quoted. Dave Smith asked if this policy covers forever chemicals. Kevin Krejny said that no one will cover them. Dave Smith said but you'll burn them. You have an issue with burning batteries and Kevin said he didn't understand what Mr. Smith's line of questioning had to do with renewing insurance. David Smith asked why the city wasn't trying to save us money. Kevin Krejny said that we can try to get quotes next year.

Jeff Grimes asked how much the coverage was for and what it covers. Kevin Krejny said the breakdown is all in the agenda packet which is on the City's website. Jeff Grimes said the City has talked about draining Frantz Pond and asked if this policy would cover that expense. Kevin Krejny said it would not cover expenses which are incurred to keep us in compliance with ODNR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to approve the resolution and Commissioner DeBrosse seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-3-24

A resolution approving the purchase of Liability insurance for Piqua's combustion turbines

Introduction: Ed Krieger said this request is like the previous resolution and is an annual renewal of specialty liability insurance to cover turbines. Supply costs are the largest cost. This insurance will protect failure. Ed Krieger said the deductible was increased to keep the premium down.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-4-24

A resolution to vacate a public easement

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing said the property owner asked us to vacate the public easement as it is not used. Chris stated that it has never been used. It went before the Planning Commission, had a public hearing, and is now coming before the City Commission for final approval.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman asked what the Planning Commission's response was and Chris Schmiesing said they approved of the vacation. Commissioner Vetter asked if the property owner will be responsible for the taxes on this piece of property now and Chris Schmiesing said yes.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-5-24

A resolution to authorize a final plat on Homer Drive with dedication

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing said this item relates to the dedication of public right of way in support of the extension of Homer Drive which will be a continuation of the Sherry Industrial Park. It would extend the roadway by 250 ft. The application went before the Planning Commission, and they recommended the final replat be approved.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to approve the resolution and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-6-24

A resolution to authorize a final plat on Scarbrough Road with dedication

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing said this is related to the dedication of public right of way and extends the roadway by 350 ft. This would allow for the future expansion of Scarborough Drive. It would provide frontage for the remaining 11 acres for future land development opportunities. The Planning Commission recommends the approval of this plat.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked Chris Schmiesing to help him understand what dedication means. Chris explained that when roadway improvements are built, they are accepted by the municipality. The dedicated right of way defines that space in which the public improvements lie. Commissioner Vetter said it is like a survey and Chris said yes, that is exactly what it is.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner DeBrosse to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Roll call was made and all were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jey Roman spoke about his trash being missed. He said he emailed Paul Oberdorfer about this last week. He said that he felt the trash pickup has fallen apart since going to the automated trucks. He received a notice that his carts need to be put away. He said entire streets have been missed. He can't control when cars park too close to his carts and doesn't understand why a driver can take the time to get out of their truck to put a note on his cart but can't get out and move the cart away from a car. Jey Roman said he is paying for a service he is not getting.

Commissioner Lee asked Paul Oberdorfer if GIS, pinpointing where the trucks are within the city, has been set up yet. Amy said that it is not complete. Paul Oberdorfer said he is working with the city planner to see what impact it would have if there were designated spots for trash carts. Commissioner Hohman asked if an educational video could be posted explaining how the carts should be placed, and what to do if trash is missed. Paul Oberdorfer said that is an excellent idea and that is one reason we hired a Public Information Officer.

Bonnie Elifritz asked whether someone could clarify the insurance policy. She said she looked over the policy and thought it covered PFAS so it might be something that was added to our policy. Mayor Lee said

we'd check into that and let her know. Paul Oberdorfer said we could put that on the webpage. Commissioner Vetter said there was an interesting article in the Dayton Daily News about PFAS. He confirmed with Kevin that we start testing for PFASs in 2025 and Kevin said that is correct.

Debbie Stein thanked the commissioners for serving. She said she is hopeful for a better year and is hopeful for positive change. She read a prepared statement touching on several topics including demand meters and her request to eliminate them or to reduce the rates, asking the commission to choose board members themselves and not include administration, and to let citizens ask questions without belittling them.

Diana Parke told the Commission that that they are left out and not being told everything. She reviewed the public records and found out so many employees were involved with Nick Warner. She said that Nick Warner wanted a pole barn, and the city gave it to him. Diana claimed that the city spent a half million dollars so Nick Warner could have more space. She said we're using city employees to unload batteries and move everything out. She said she is concerned about what we have in this town.

Commissioner Hohman said he'd like a copy of the emails she was referring to and other commissioners asked the same.

Jeff Grimes was glad to see new commissioners. He said we are not the bad guys and only want the best for our community. He said 5 minutes might not be enough. He said he wants no burning of anything next to Swift Run, Johnston Farm, or the bike path. He said he insisted that the city has another public meeting with EPA. Jeff Grimes said that he would like the Great Miami River to be designated as a scenic water way. He said that we should do away with the trash service and farm it out. He mentioned a gentleman that was short \$41.00 on his utility bill and his services were shut off. He said he'd like to be notified if someone is being shut off. He said he'd like to start up a fund when citizens are short, and Commissioner Lee said he'd contribute to it. Commissioner Vetter said there is already a fund available for people who are short on their utility bills through Piqua Compassion Network. Jeff Grimes asked if there has been grant money available that has not been used. He felt like there was and it could have been used towards Jason Tillman's property.

Adam Seas said he was displeased that the gentleman that was short \$41.00 on his utility bill was shut off. He discussed what other utility companies do. Mr. Seas said that we need to look at demand meters, saying that he went into a vacant building and turned on a light switch he was billed for \$750.00. He thinks we need to get a third party in here and do a risk assessment. He knows a downtown business owner and feels the label of Toxic Piqua may hurt her business. He feels like there are a lot of positive things happening and gave Paul Oberdorfer credit for finally getting Lock 9 started. He said he was in high school when it was first announced. He said the downtown looked great this year. Crooked Handle put their own money into their business, and it is nice to have a lot of great restaurants in Piqua.

Alisha Lange said it feels good to walk up to all the commissioners. She felt like there was good energy. She addressed Kevin Krejny and thanked him for questioning things that were going on. Alisha read from some emails where Kevin discussed that ESRG needed to get the utilities switched over into their name.

Alisha asked Frank Patrizio what a reasonable timeframe was that she could expect her public records request. Frank Patrizio said he is not sure how many pages the request includes. She mentioned the Toxic tag that is being used in reference to Piqua. She addressed Paul Oberdorfer and said that he did know what was going on according to the emails. She said she is going to put a lot of resources on YouTube. According to Alisha, Piqua had the largest testing site in the world.

Chuck Starrett welcomed the new commissioners. He said he has seen changes for good and for bad. He is impressed with the young people stepping up. He doesn't feel like we should be catering to one park. He said that we need to get rid of the five-minute rule. He said the ordinance can be changed and the meeting can still be controlled. When you stop shutting down people, you'll be a better commission. These are the people out here that know the stuff. He said if we work on the same table, it will go forward. Chuck said he questions the way we are giving business tax incentives.

Jim Sheets gave a shout out to Eva Silvers for helping the homeless and to Susan Justice for a program she started called Hope. He thanked the Salvation Army bell ringers. He asked Commissioner Vetter what his plans are for their ward. Commissioner Vetter said his number one priority is safe affordable housing. He said the city is ready to roll out a 1st time home buyers' program. Jim Sheets asked about a building in their ward that needed attention and Commissioner Vetter said he was not aware of the building and that Jim Sheets needed to make that clear. Jim Sheets said that Commissioner Vetter needs to communicate with the board. Commissioner Vetter said that according to CDBG funding their neighborhood is considered a slum and blighted neighborhood. Commissioner Vetter pointed out that the curb ramps are from CDBG funding. Jim Sheets asked about the streets in his neighborhood. Commissioner Vetter asked Jim Sheets to make a list of his concerns. Commissioner Vetter asked that their neighbors remove their trash carts from the streets in a timely manner.

Dave Smith said he can find a lot of problems and doesn't have faith in none of you. He said that none of the commissioners have a drop of curiosity. He said the citizens are lied to and we're sick of it. He said he's not someone you want to piss off. You lie to us but want us to keep civil. He mentioned that his trash cans are being thrown down the street. The Fire Department told him he could not burn leaves, but the city was burning batteries. Dave Smith said he his going to start burning his trash and dared anyone to tell him he couldn't burn it.

Tammy Neves asked what the person sitting in the back of the room, that was hired to advise the city, was being paid for now. She said the citizens ask the Commissioners to remove the city manager because of his involvement and continued lies.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer welcomed the new commissioners. He said that he spent the last meeting in 2023 talking about investments made in the city but it is really the 190 full time employees that get things done, not the people in this room. Police, Fire, Water, Wastewater, UBO and others in the office that work here. They are great public servants.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Paul Simmons thanked people for trusting in him and said he hopes to do well by them.

Frank DeBrosse said he has been a lifelong resident of Piqua, and it is an honor and privilege to serve. He said it was not on his to-do list but felt compelled to throw his hat in the ring. Frank thanked everyone who participated in getting him elected. He said we have a lot of work cut out for us and asks that the citizens continue to bring things to our attention to make our community stronger.

Thomas Hohman congratulated the new commissioners and Mayor Lee. He asked that the citizens stay involved this year and said let's keep going!

Commissioner Vetter said the average citizen doesn't know how much time the mayor spends but Kris Lee and him will tag team the role. He encouraged people to go to the 2nd floor of the library to see the interesting display. Someone asked how many properties Piqua Improvement Corporation owned and he has learned that PIC currently owns four properties. All of them are for sale. There will be something on the website about the first-time homebuyer's program. Although the City of Piqua doesn't run the program, he still wants to educate people. He hopes this will encourage more people to own homes. He said citizens are disregarding the rules by placing rocks in their trash cans and leaving their carts out. He acknowledged that the city still has a cat problem and he's hoping that we can continue to work towards helping with that. Commissioner Vetter announced that he has perfect attendance. There is a meeting on January 18th at the YMCA Youth Center to discuss Hance Pavilion. He was able to tour the Piqua Center and there are interesting things happening there.

Kris Lee thanked his fellow commissioners for electing him as Mayor. He said the job is nothing if the citizens don't have a say. He received a suggestion to start a Piqua Focus group. It will be a group of about 20 citizens who will meet with the commissioners about their concerns. He asked for an update on the Power Project. Paul Oberdorfer said he will provide him with some information. Kris thanked the Police and Fire and said they did a good job. Kris announced that he will be in the city building every Wednesday between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to meet with citizens. He said let's do this together and he is looking forward to working with the citizens.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to adjourn to Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Hohman. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lee and Commissioners DeBrosse, Hohman, Lee, and Vetter were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to adjourn to Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Hohman. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:34

A motion was made by Mayor Lee to adjourn from Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Lee to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vetter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Melissa Kinney 1.16.24
Attest Commission Clerk Date

Kris Lee 1.16.24
Kris Lee, Mayor Date