

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Grissom, Lee, and Vetter were present. A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to excuse Commissioner Hinds and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:31 pm

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Grissom, Lee, and Vetter were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The purpose of the Executive Session is to prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:28 pm

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

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the February 7, 2023, regular Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve these minutes and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-25-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Tree Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Tree Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-27-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-28-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-29-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-38-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Forest Hill Union Cemetery Board

Mayor Pearson announced that this resolution needs to be tabled since the Washington Township Trustees were not present. Law Director Frank Patrizio stated the same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to table this resolution and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-30-23

A resolution of appreciation for the 2022 City of Piqua Volunteers

Amy Welker explained that the idea to honor volunteers evolved from the Park Board. The board wants to thank all city volunteers and show appreciation of their time and efforts. As this is a first attempt, she asked that citizens make the city aware if there are others missed and that this effort will continue to recognize volunteers going forward.

Commissioner Vetter and Mayor Pearson read names from the 2022 City of Piqua Volunteers list. Mayor Pearson also announced the names of new board and committee members and their elected terms.

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-31-23

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers, Inc. (AFSCME), Council 8, Local 984

Introduction: Catherine Bogan explained that this contract represents the skilled laborers and clerical unit employees. This agreement will replace the contract that expired December 31, 2022, and will be in effect until December 31, 2025.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

Action Taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve R-31-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-31-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-32-23

A resolution awarding a contract to Emerson Process Management Power & Water Solutions, Inc. for gas turbine control system upgrades for the Power system

Introduction: Ed Krieger discussed the benefits for the customers with these upgrades, as it will be a cost saving tool over time. The upgrades made in 2011 made the system the best in class for operating units. However, computer and software systems have limited life. Emerson has been recommending an upgrade for the past 12 years, and Mr. Krieger feels that now is the time to do it. This should get us through the next 10-12 years, and the Energy Board gave its unanimous support at the January 31st meeting.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Grissom asked when this project would be implemented and expressed concern with inflationary risk either in 2023 or 2024. Mr. Krieger responded that it depends on when the project is completed but believes that it is feasible to complete this year with a target of \$480,000 spent.

Public Comment: None

Action Taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve R-32-23 and Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-32-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-33-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Miami County Public Health for public health services

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that this resolution is to approve the annual purchase order to the county for health services. We joined the Miami County Health District in 2022.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if all subdivisions of the county are now part of this one health district, to which Ms. Welker replied yes.

Public Comment: None

Action Taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve R-33-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-33-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-34-23

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with the Piqua Junior Baseball and Softball League

Introduction: Ms. Welker explained that this resolution involves a modified 3-year lease agreement with the local league for utilizing the fields at Pitsenbarger Sports Complex. She noted that Mr. Patrizio did review this agreement.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter commented that this is a good value for the citizens of Piqua and provides recreational activities to the youth in our community. He inquired about other groups being able to use these fields. Ms. Welker said that the lease agreement does allow for that and for city use if applicable. Commissioner Vetter asked if the provision of providing an annual financial audit was new, to which Ms. Welker replied that it was not new. The leagues did submit their financial records this year, and she verified their tax status, along with confirming that their IRS tax filings are current. Commissioner Vetter also said that the city provides the utilities to support these leagues, and Friends of the Parks is currently helping with renovation of the baseball concession stand area.

Public Comment: None

Action Taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve R-34-23 and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-34-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-35-23

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with the Piqua Youth Football League

Introduction: Ms. Welker said this resolution is to continue the 3-year lease agreement with the local football league. She said this group does a great job and is very responsive.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter said he appreciates the lease agreement in that it sets parameters for both the city and the league.

Public Comment: None

Action Taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve R-35-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-35-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-36-23

A resolution authorizing an amendment to the Zoning Map to change the Zoning designation of Parcel N44-250445 from R2-Two-family residential to R3- Multi-family residential

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing stated that this refers to the former church with attached annex at 419 Broadway that has been vacant for many years. Due to its limited use, it has been difficult to repurpose. The new owner Bill Timmerman applied for R3 zoning for flexibility in use. This is consistent with the future Code Piqua guidelines and approval was already recommended by the Planning Commission.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter said he appreciates this property, as his family attended church there. He inquired if this would rezone the entire parcel, to which Mr. Schmiesing replied yes. Mr. Schmiesing also said that ownership has transferred several times, and there is no longer a church affiliation.

Commissioner Lee expressed his appreciation to the new owner.

Public Comment: Bill Timmerman of 4457 Horseshoe Bend Road, Troy, shared that he intends to renovate both the second and third levels of this building for multi-family use.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve R-36-23 and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-37-23

A resolution to execute an economic development revolving loan agreement with For Tech USA, LLC

Introduction: Mr. Schmiesing said that this involves the previous Orr Felt building on South Main Street. For Tech USA, LLC purchased it in 2016 to move one of their production lines here from Italy. The company needs a loan to complete repairs to the building and roof, and this loan will bridge the gap to get the company operating. It entails a four-year term with attractive interest rates, and the Economic Development Revolving

Loan Fund set up in 2022 is exactly what this is for. The company anticipates 15-21 new jobs in the next 5-10 years, along with an average salary of \$60K per employee.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter said he has noticed a lot of items being removed from the building. Mr. Schmiesing said there is a lot of old, unused equipment to get rid of. Commissioner Vetter also commented that this is really good for the city, as that building is a large footprint of that block.

Public Comment: Tom Hohman of 1803 Nicklin Avenue said this is a great use of city funds. He asked if there were any terms in the loan encouraging the borrower to use local vendors and merchants, to which Mr. Schmiesing replied yes. Mr. Hohman also asked if the city had any projections on tax revenues in regard to this project. Mr. Schmiesing reported that this will create tax revenues, including corporate tax payments and annual income earnings from the new jobs.

Delores Brown of 1020 Lincoln Street expressed her frustration that the City does not have funds for a community pool or to fix Hance Pavilion at Fountain Park. Commissioner Vetter invited her to attend the Town Hall meeting this coming Thursday to discuss the Hance Pavilion issue.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve R-37-23 and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the resolution was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Hohman of 1803 Nicklin Avenue asked if the City has a plan if something like the East Palestine train tragedy would happen here in Piqua. He stated his concern that CSX operates the railroad tracks here and noted that CSX had 181 accidents in 2022, including 60 derailments. He wanted to know if a disaster plan is set up, if we have water testing for potentially-spilled chemicals and if CSX has mandates for inspection reports. He also would like to discuss a disaster plan and what that entails, and he mentioned that FEMA offers free training. City Manager Paul Oberdorfer reported that Miami County is well prepared in the event of a disaster such as this. The county has an Emergency Management Training Program that provides exercises annually and cross-pollinates City Administration, Police & Fire. He stated that CSX compliance is out of the City's jurisdiction and that there is no need for water testing at this time. Commissioner Vetter commented that he recalls when a Dayton paint distribution plant burned down about 10 years ago and of a phosphorous spill when a train derailed in Miamisburg.

Jim Verhotz of 1222 Nicklin Avenue commended Piqua for heading in the right direction, as he noticed Crooked Handle, Referees and Scottish Thistle all busy on Sunday evening. He said that we need young people on the boards and committees, and he appreciated Mr. Schmiesing's hard work. He also said it is long overdue to rehab the old buildings in Piqua.

Delores Brown of 1020 Lincoln Street said that she does not want chickens to be allowed in the city limits. She said this is cruelty to chickens, as they will be caged at all times. Mr. Patrizio reported that the chicken proposal will go to the Planning Commission again, as revisions were requested at the previous meeting. Commissioner Lee commented that he has received a lot of calls from citizens in support of chickens in the city limits.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer reminded all to sign up for Smart Hub and that customers can easily make payments after hours at their convenience at multiple locations. He also reminded customers that refuse collection will be one day late this week due to Presidents' Day.

Commissioner Vetter asked about the electronic surveillance technology on the trash trucks. Ms. Welker explained that currently it is not correlated since GIS is not set up, but that customers are notified of issues with their collection. Commissioner Grissom asked if there are still a lot of misses, to which Ms. Welker responded that there are few now, as the automated truck route changes have been ironed out.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Grissom – He encouraged everyone to voice their opinions to their City Commissioner, as this gives the Commissioners insight. He also wants more people to get involved with city government.

Mayor Pearson – She announced and invited all to attend the Town Hall this Thursday, February 23rd @ 7 pm, as Mr. Schmiesing will be presenting what is going on new in Piqua in regards to development. She also advised to be an informed citizen and to get the true facts and ask questions.

Commissioner Vetter – He wanted all to be aware that the newspaper Miami Valley Today will begin 2 days per week delivery soon, which is a sign of the changing times. He said that he has compiled a list he will share later of 10 reasons for not having chickens in Piqua. He also said that a good citizen involves being vigilant and participating in meetings.

Commissioner Lee – He said that he has received numerous calls and is gathering input on the chicken debate. He believes that his job as a commissioner is to bring public awareness to the issue and encourages more to get involved. He mentioned that there are still several board and committee openings as well.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to adjourn, and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All approved and the motion carried unanimously.