



MINUTES
REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 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 Hinds, Lee, Grissom and Vetter were present. Commissioner Lee asked to be excused after Executive Session. Commissioner Hinds made a motion to excuse Commissioner Lee after Executive Session and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All approved and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pearson made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. The Commissioners adjourned into Executive Session at 5:32.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:53

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

JOINT MEETING WITH WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES & PIQUA CITY COMMISSION

ROLL CALL OF PIQUA CITY COMMISSION AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hinds, Grissom and Vetter were present. It is noted that Commissioner Lee was excused. Also present were Washington Township trustees Scott D. Black and Thomas Jeff Lange. Jeff Lange made a motion to excuse Edward F McMaken. Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the February 2, 2021, Joint Meeting of the Washington Township Trustees and the Piqua City Commission

RESOLUTION NO. R-38-23

A Resolution appointing John Swallow to the Board of Trustees of Forest Hill Union Cemetery

RESOLUTION NO. R-39-23

A Resolution appointing Ed McMaken to the Board of Trustees of Forest Hill Union Cemetery

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.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Pearson welcomed John Swallow and Ed McMaken to the Forest Hill Cemetery Board.

ADJOURNMENT FROM JOINT MEETING WITH WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES at 5:55 pm

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from the joint meeting with Washington Township Trustees and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION – ASCEND

A power point presentation was made by Matt McKenna and Eric Kmetz who were representing Ascend, a cannabis company. An introduction to their company was made stating they operate in six states. They also shared that they will be breaking ground this week on their Recker Road location in Piqua. The Commissioners asked questions and it was pointed out that there are a lot of regulations that must be followed including security cameras and lighting.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the February 21, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting with Executive Session.

RESOLUTION NO. R-40-23

A resolution appointing Matt Verhotz to the Housing Council

RESOLUTION NO. R-41-23

A resolution appointing Sherrie Collett member to the Housing Council

RESOLUTION NO. R-42-23

A resolution appointing Tyler Fonzi to the Diversity Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-43-23

A resolution appointing Jack Bastain to the Diversity Committee

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

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Pearson thanked all the volunteers who were appointed to a board.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1-23 (1ST Reading)

An ordinance establishing the manner in which ordinances will be available for public inspection

Introduction: This Ordinance is to recognize that the City of Piqua website would be sufficient for publishing the legislation along with in-person accessibility. Amy Welker explained that there are not a lot of options for publishing legislation. Amy also mentioned that the newspaper decreased the number of days they publish a newspaper to two days per week.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if it would exclude the newspaper altogether and Amy Welker confirmed that it would because of the cost. Commissioner Hinds confirmed that it would be on Facebook and Amy Welker said that no changes would be made to how it's currently published online.

Action taken: 1st Reading

RESOLUTION NO. R-44-23

A resolution of appreciation for the public service of Bradley W. Weer as a city employee

Introduction: Mayor Pearson presented Brad Weer a resolution of appreciation. Chief Pohlschneider was present.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds thanked Brad Weer for his service and said she hopes he has a wonderful retirement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to approve R-44-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-23

A resolution authorizing purchase orders to Shi International Corp. for the purchase of Cisco Systems for the IT department.

Introduction: Amy Welker said that the city embarked on a strategic plan for IT and as part of the plan, the items requested in this resolution are key to make up the deficiencies.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked when the last time upgrades were made, and Amy Welker replied that she doesn't know if an upgrade to all the switches has ever been made. Commissioner Vetter said then it makes perfect sense. Commissioner Grissom asked if any adjustments were made in the process of upgrading. Amy Welker said there is a 3–5-year plan and the switches were identified as the most important and checked off first. Mayor Pearson asked if this will be covered by the IT budget. Amy Welker said it would come out of the IT budget which gets allocated out to all departments.

A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve R-45-23 and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-46-23

A resolution awarding a contract for the purchase of LED streetlights for the Power System

Introduction: Ed Krieger said this request will complete the conversion of all lights to LED. About 65% of the lights have already been switched to LED and the plan is to complete the remaining third by the end of 2023. Ed Krieger noted that they moved into the project slowly but accelerated it last year.

The Piqua Energy Board recommended the replacement of lights to LED at their January meeting.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if all of the lights will be complete by the end of 2023. Ed Krieger responded saying this is correct and there'll be no more sodium lights. Commissioner Vetter confirmed that this did not include parks or the sports fields. Ed Krieger said this would not include the parks, but they would evaluate the parks over time, as this is an expensive project. Commissioner Grissom expressed his appreciation to the Power crew and is impressed with how quickly they've worked. Ed Krieger said it is an especially great project for the apprentices they have.

Citizen Comments: Tom Homan asked if the lights can be recycled. Ed Krieger responded and said they have high pressure sodium in them and there is not enough material that is recyclable. Commissioner Grissom asked if there is any resale value and Ed Krieger said no. Ed said that most communities are in the process of, or have already, switched over to LED lights.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve R-46-23 and Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-47-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Fire Safety Services, Inc. for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) for the Fire Department

Introduction: Brent Pohlschneider asked for approval for breathing apparatus to replace the ones that were purchased in 2007. In 2021 a grant was submitted to FEMA and they awarded the city 75% of the cost of the breathing apparatus. The current equipment will be evaluated to see if it can be repurposed.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Grissom questioned how the cost will be absorbed since we only budgeted \$23,000 and the actual cost was \$75,000. Brent Pohlschneider said the Fire Department will hold off on purchasing extra equipment to make up the difference. Commissioner Grissom asked if the whole line was being replaced. Chief Pohlschneider replied that they were purchasing one for every firefighter. Dustin Lacy, Asst Fire Chief, came to the podium and further elaborated that the standards are a lot different than they used to be and you don't want to have two firefighters who's breathing apparatus lasts for different lengths of time. Currently the breathing equipment is not NFPA compliant. Commissioner Hinds said she'll approve anything that keeps the firefighters safe. She also thanked Dustin Lacy for what he does.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve R-47-23 and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-48-23

A resolution approving the application for renewal of farmland in an agricultural district filed by Sally Apple for parcels N44-076881 and N44-076907 and N44-076917 in the City of Piqua

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that she was introducing this resolution in Jennifer Kahle's absence. This application for renewal of farmland is on a 15-year rotation. The applicant has 9 parcels of which 3 fall within the city limits, totaling 90 acres.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked what the process would be to change this from farmland if an opportunity came up before 15 years. Amy Welker said this would be between the property owner and the buyer, at the owner's request. Commissioner Vetter questioned if the same would go for the City if they wanted to change it and Amy Welker said it would work the same way. Commissioner Grissom asked where the properties are located and Amy said the property is located on Snodgrass, Eldean, Snyder, and 25A all abutting up to city land.

A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve R-48-23 and Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Deloris Brown expressed that the City of Piqua does not need two marijuana dispensaries in this small of a town. Deloris is also concerned that they will be located so close to the High School. Ms. Brown said the citizens voted to ban marijuana dispensaries in Piqua several years ago. Commissioner Grissom responded that the Commission voted to lift the moratorium.

Tom Homan asked if the Commission thought it would be appropriate for Ascend to sponsor a high school event. Commissioner Hinds said that would be up to the schools. Commissioner Grissom said community involvement is good. Tom Homan spoke about the branding if they did sponsor an event.

Mr Homan asked when the bike path to Troy, and the bridge, would open back up. Paul Oberdorfer said it would hopefully be completed this summer. Commissioner Grissom questioned which bridge was being discussed. Paul Oberdorfer said the pedestrian bridge close to Lock 9 is being assessed currently and repairs look like they could be \$30,000-\$35,000. Commissioner Hinds suggested Mr Homan become an advocacy for our bike trail and join Bike Piqua. Linking to the Sidney bike trail was also discussed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer said the meetings for a Strategic Plan kicked off today. Citizens were invited to attend a forum at the Piqua Plaza.

Citizens were reminded to sign up for Smart Hub and Notify Me.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Vetter – Thanked Fire Department and Electric Department and said he was very thankful for their work. He announced that he'll be a candidate in the Fall for City Commissioner. Commissioner Vetter said Chapter 4 of being a Good Citizen is being truthful.

Commissioner Hinds – Announced Kiwanis pancake breakfast this Saturday at Upper Valley Career Center. She encouraged everyone to go out and support the Kiwanis club.

Commissioner Grissom – Congratulated Brad Weer for his employment. He also appreciates those who volunteered for boards as he tries to get people involved and engaged. Commissioner Grissom thanked Commissioner Vetter for running again. He also stated that there was overwhelming response in favor of marijuana dispensaries and the same with backyard chickens.

Mayor Pearson – Congratulated Brad Weer. Reminded citizens to get involved with strategic plan by attending a forum between 1-3 tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:10 pm

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from the regular city commission meeting and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.