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 Vogt, Martin, Terry, and Wilson. Absent: None.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

RESIDENCE PRIDE AWARDS

924 Young Street  John and Linda Brinkman
903 Washington Avenue  Vic and Pam Brockman
635 Boone Street  Mr. & Mrs. Fernie Curtis
720 W. Ash Street  LeAnn & Mark Niblick
932 W. North Street  Nicholas & Bonnie Gigandet

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the June 21, 2011 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting, and the minutes from the Piqua City Commission Worksession of June 2, 2011.


OLD BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 5-11 (2nd Reading)

An Ordinance amending Sections 52.01, 52.21, 53.06 and 51.81 of the Piqua Code relating to Municipal Utilities General Service Regulations

Utility Supervisor Robin Hungerford explained the various changes and stated all of the City Utility Departments have reviewed the current Utility General Service Regulations for clarification, consistency and industry standards. This is typically done every five years and was last updated in 2006. This will also allow the City to include Stormwater as a utility that is governed by these rules. Stormwater was added as a utility last year as a mandate from the EPA.

The City will only bill users of these services who have requested the services. This method of billing is fair and will help keep the utility costs down for the majority of the customers, this will not change the overall utility rate structures and most customers will not be affected by these changes. The purpose is to align the fees with those customers who use these particular services, stated Ms. Hungerford.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 5-11.

Ordinance No. 5-11 was given a second reading.
RES. NO. R-75-11 (Tabled 6/21/2011)


A Resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation Program Application for Fiscal year 2011

Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy thanked the Southview Neighborhood Association representatives for meeting with them to help them get a better understanding of their priorities for Mote Park in the future.

Mr. Murphy went over some of the Mote Park issues and how the city proposes to address them. They include a new park shelter, addressing the electrical needs, adding lighting along the paths which is scheduled to be done in 2012 & 2013, getting the existing water fountains back in working order, placing additional picnic tables in the park, and resetting the existing benches in cement. It was also noted that approximately $90,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funds were used to update the HVAC and the windows at the Community Building at Mote Park previously.

Mr. Murphy also explained the need for the Downtown Street Improvements on the intersections at North Wayne Street and High Street and North Wayne Street and West High Street. These improvements will increase the pedestrian safety in this area by clearly outlining pedestrian cross walks across High Street, North Wayne and Market Streets and incorporate traffic calming devices which will decrease speed of traveling motorists. This intersection plan was one of the requests that came out of the Plan It Piqua document after meetings were held in August of 2008 and January 2009, stated Mr. Murphy.

There was a lengthy discussion on the need for the crosswalks and the bump-outs at this time, if any parking spaces would be eliminated, and if there have been any traffic accidents or any pedestrian accidents at this site.

Police Chief Bruce Jamison stated he appreciated being included in the Plan It Piqua Meetings, and supports any improvement that makes an area safer, and the proposed improvements to the intersections will make that area a lot safer.

City Manager Enderle stated we need to take a look at all of various parks needs and prepare a list for the 2012 Grant Application.

Mayor Fess stated as long as we can satisfy the needs for the playground equipment at Mote Park she would like to see the intersection improvements also completed with the grant money received at this time.

Public Comment

Jim Vetter, Southview Neighborhood Association President came forward and presented a list of the various things the Neighborhood Association would like to see done at Mote Park. Discussion of the different types of playground equipment that is available and the costs were presented. City Manager Enderle stated there should be several different types of parks in communities and they include: Community Parks, Sports Parks, and Neighborhood Parks. Mayor Fess asked Mr. Vetter if he thought $29,000 would be a good figure to work with for the playground equipment at this time. Mr. Vetter replied that $29,000 would be a great start. City Manager Enderle stated we could allocate $29,000 for the Mote Park playground equipment and $57,000 for the Streetscape if that is what the Commissioners would like to do, but the resolution needs to pass with an allotted dollar amount.
Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and voiced his opinion on the need for the crosswalks and at the proposed intersection.

Russ Fashner, Forest Avenue came forward and asked several questions concerning the crosswalks including if the bump-outs would cause any traffic problems with trucks and trailers turning or problems with snow removal this winter, would parking be restricted in the area, and does the amount of money need to be specified for the streetscaping improvements at this time.

Deron Yingst, N. Wayne Street stated he felt more thought was put into the streetscaping project than in the Mote Park playground equipment, and asked if the crosswalks could just be painted at this time and all of the money put in to the parks. Mr. Yingst also inquired about putting money toward rehabbing homes in the blighted and slum areas.

Moved by Commissioner Terry to adopt Resolution No. R-75-11 with the changes to allocate $29,000 to the Mote Park playground equipment, and the other $57,000 be allocated to the Streetscaping Project, seconded by Commissioner Vogt. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Terry, and Fess. Nay: Martin and Wilson. Vote carried on a 3-2 vote. Mayor Fess declared Resolution No. R-75-12 adopted on a 3-2 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ORD. NO. 6-11 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance authorizing the submission of a proposed amendment to Piqua Charter Sections 120, 122, 125 and 127 The Recall

Law Director Stacy Wall gave a brief overview of each of the proposed amendments to the Piqua Charter. Ms. Wall stated a Worksession was held June 2, 2011 and the proposed amendments were discussed and changes were made.

Commissioner Wilson stated several changes were suggested at the June 2 meeting that were not able to be changed due to legal issues.

Public Comment

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street came forward and voiced his opinion on several of the proposed Charter Amendments.

Chuck Starrett, Demming Road came forward and stated the Charter is the backbone of the City and protect citizen’s rights. Mr. Starrett also voiced his concern on the number of signatures required being changed from 1000 to 2000, and the fact he would like to have more than 30 days to get the required signatures. We all learned something from the Recall and stated he feels the voters will make intelligent decisions at the polls. A lot of good things have come out of the Recall including the Positively Promoting Piqua (PPP) organization.

Mayor Fess stated the Recall is over and behind us now, we have to look forward to working together as a community.

Ordinance No. 6-11 was given a first reading.

RES. NO. R-80-11

A Resolution accepting the resignation of Karen Schultz as a member of the Community Diversity Committee

City Manager Enderle stated Resolution No. R-74-11 is a resolution accepting the resignation of Karen Schultz as a member of the Community Diversity Committee
Public Comment
No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-80-11 at this time.

It was stated there are two openings now on the Community Diversity Committee if anyone is interested to contact the City Managers Office.


RES. NO. R-81-11

A Resolution awarding a contract to Sulzer Turbo Services for Emergency Repairs to #8 Gas Turbine

Power Systems Director Ed Krieger stated the Power System owns and operates two combustion gas turbines, which are over forty years old, and significant dollars have not been invested to ensure their continued reliable operations. Mr. Krieger further explained the reason for the emergency repairs to the #8 Gas Turbine at this time and stated it is a maintenance issue. Extensive testing of the #8 and #9 turbines was completed in the fall of 2010 and both units have obsolete parts and will be harder to repair each year.

There was discussion on the need for the repairs, if any maintenance has been done previously, and what would happen if the turbine were to break down. Mr. Krieger explained.

Public Comment
No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-81-11


RES. NO. R-82-11

A Resolution awarding contracts to Emerson Process Management and ProEnergy Services for gas turbine planned maintenance

Power Systems Director Ed Krieger explained the turbines can be black-started and are able to serve over half of the City’s electric load if needed, so it is very important to maintain them. The 2011 Budget has included $650,000 to cover the cost of the planned maintenance to both the #8 and #9 turbines, and was included in the Power System’s ten-year capital plan, stated Mr. Krieger.

Commissioner Terry asked Mr. Krieger to explain what a black-start is. Mr. Krieger explained how the black-start works and the reason for it.

Public Comment
No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-82-11

RES. NO. R-83-11

A Resolution awarding a contract to Star Ex., Inc. for the Power System Service Center early site work project

Power System’s Director Ed Krieger explained Resolution No. R-83-11 would authorize the Power System to retain the services of Star Ex., Inc. to complete the early site work construction activities at a cost not to exceed $443,855.

Approximately 5 acres of property along Hemm & Basset Avenue has been purchased for the construction of a consolidate Power System Service Center. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed and revealed no environmental concerns. Approval of this resolution will allow Power System staff to begin with plans to construct a consolidated Power System Service Center. The Energy Board at their June 28, 2001 meeting unanimously recommended the City Commission approve the awarding of the contract to Star Ex for completion of the early site work activities.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-83-11


RES. NO. R-84-11

A Resolution providing funds to the Piqua Improvement Corporation as required by the Clean Ohio Council for participation in the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Program and certifying that funds are available for such purpose and rescinding Resolution No. R-79-11

City Manager Enderle stated the City Commission adopted Resolution No. R-79-11 on July 21, 2001 committing $500,000 in power funds to the project. It has been determined that the amount of funds needed for the project match will need to be $1,000,000 which is $500,000 more than what was originally committed. It was noted that the demolition and clean up of the entire Power Plant site could very easily be in excess of $5 million. The City’s (PIC) success in getting grant dollars reduces the City’s liability for the total cost, and until the project is bid will not know the final cost, stated City Manager Enderle.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-84-11


PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Franz, Parkridge Place, came forward and voiced her concern over the need for the playground equipment at Mote Park, further stating she felt it was more important to commit more of the money to the playground equipment than to the streetscaping with the curb bump-outs at this time.
Ron Cool, Park Avenue, came forward and thanked Mr. Murphy and his staff on receiving the Clean Ohio Revitalization Grant for the hospital project. Mr. Cool further stated the City held several public meetings concerning the use of grant funds but they were not very well attended, and he encouraged citizens to participate in the public meetings in the future.

Mayor Fess stated she was very pleased to receive the Clean Ohio Revitalization Grant and now the City can move forward with the Hospital Project.

Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy gave a brief overview of some of the things happening in Economic Development. Apex Aluminum is expanding in conjunction with Atlas Precision moving to Piqua, their plans are to add an additional 8-10 employees in the future.

Commissioner Wilson congratulated the City on receiving the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant and thanked all of the staff involved in making this happen. Commissioner Wilson also congratulated the five Resident Pride Award winners and reminded citizens to keep their properties picked up, their grass mowed, and to take pride in their properties.

Commissioner Terry stated she attended the 4th of July celebration at Fountain Park noting the large number of people in attendance as a good sign of a wonderful celebration. Commissioner Terry also reminded citizens the Civic Band would be playing on Thursday evening July 7th at the Hance Pavilion and invited citizens to come out and support them. Commissioner Terry stated she is very excited about the city receiving the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant money, as it will make a very important impact in the community and especially in the 4th Ward.

Commissioner Vogt reminded citizens to take pride in their neighborhoods and asked neighbors to help their neighbors with mowing grass, and picking up their properties. Commissioner Vogt reminded citizens to set their trash out in cans instead of bags if possible. Commissioner Vogt stated he felt Economic Development Director Bill Murphy and Community Development Director Bill Lutz went above and beyond in putting together the information required to receive the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant and thanked them for all of their hard work.

Mayor Fess asked Deron Yingst if he would give an update on the painting of the four houses he owns located at the corner of W. High and College Street. Mr. Yingst came forward and explained his plans for the painting of the four homes.

Mayor Fess congratulated the five Residence Pride Award winners, and asked citizens to look around their neighborhoods and submit homes for the Residence Pride Awards in the future.

Mayor Fess stated the Piqua Community Swimming Pool has been very busy this year and encouraged citizens to continue to support the Swimming Pool.

OTHER

Monthly Reports – May 2011

Monthly Reports were accepted for May 2011

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline or compensation of the City Manager.

b. To consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes.
Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting into Executive Session at 9:45 P.M. Roll call, Aye: Fess, Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Executive Session meeting at 11:04 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting 11:05 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: ____________________________

ATTEST: ____________________________
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION