

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday March 20, 2012  
7:30 P.M.**

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.

Mayor Fess asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to remove items #3, #4 and, #5 from the agenda, Resolution No.R-62-12, Resolution No.R-63-12, and Resolution No. R-64-12.

City Manager Gary Huff gave a brief explanation on the removal of Resolution No. R-62-12, Resolution No. R-63-12, and Resolution No. R-64-12. City Manager Huff stated it was brought to his attention the way the Ohio Revised Code reads once an application is filed the City has thirty days to act on the application. Unfortunately by the time the city received some of the applications the time limit was very close. The city practice is to set a Public Hearing at one Commission Meeting for the Public Hearing of the application to be held at the next Commission meeting. Then the hearing is held and the application is passed if no opposition is noted. This is causing some problem with the timing of receiving the applications and placing them on two different Commission Meetings. If the applications are not approved within the thirty-day time frame they are automatically approved. Resolution No. R-63-12, and Resolution No. R-64-12 are already passed the thirty days and approved automatically. Resolution No. R-62-12 was received In March, and if a Public Hearing were to be set at the current meeting to be held at the next Commission Meeting of April 3, 2012 it would also be passed the thirty days and be automatically approved, thus the reason for removing these items from the agenda at this time, stated City Manager Huff.

City Manager Huff explained the process the City would follow in the future with the applications, further stating the agricultural applications are only renewed and approved every five (5) years.

Mayor Fess stated two of the applications have already been automatically approved and the third will be automatically approved. This is a housekeeping matter that has been overlooked in the past, and the City Manager has put steps in place to get the applications approved in a timely manner by eliminating the first step.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to remove Items #3, #4 and #5, Resolutions No. R-62-12, Resolution R-63-12, and Resolution No. R-64-12 from the agenda. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Terry, Fess, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None.

City Manager Huff stated all three of the Resolutions are automatically approved, and no action was taken by the City Commission at this time.

**Presentation – Ms. Linda Masonbrink-Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Water**

Ms. Masonbrink read the Certificate of Presentation awarded to the City of Piqua, and presented it to Water System Superintendent Don Freisthler, Mayor Fess, and Utilities Director Dave Burtner. Ms. Masonbrink stated this is the third endorsable drinking water source protection plan to date that addresses potential pollutants that can threaten the city's drinking water. The City of Piqua is both an example and an inspiration to other communities.

Don Freisthler stated the Certificate of Presentation does not belong to just the Water Department it belongs to the whole community and could only be achieved by the entire communities involvement, along with a number of different groups. Mr. Freisthler thanked the City Commission for their support and for helping accomplish this to continue to protect our water in the future.

Mayor Fess congratulated the Water Department staff and acknowledged members of the Middle Great Miami River Watershed Alliance for their continued endeavors concerning the area's drinking water. Those members in attendance included Jeff Lange, Scott Phillips, and Randy Kirchner.

### **REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

Approval of the minutes from the March 6, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting, and the March 8, 2012 Work Session. Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt that the minutes of the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting of March 6, 2012, and the March 8, 2012 Work Session be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **ORD. NO. 8-12-Amended (1st Reading)**

An Ordinance amending Section 154.098 and 154.100 of the Piqua Code of ordinances to modify permit, general and display period adjustments for temporary; attached and detached sign types

City Planner Chris Schmiesing explained. The amendment will modify the Zoning Code sign standards. The proposed permit requirement will provide a record of the start date for display period duration and frequency for tacking purposes, the general requirements modifications will relax the attached banner sign height limitation, the elimination of the detached standards will eliminate confusion concerning which standards are applicable, the adjustment to the display period limits will give businesses greater flexibility in how they use the temporary commercial sign display allowance, and an extended display period will be used during the current street closures on E. Ash Street.

This material was presented to the Planning Commission and they recommended their approval of the changes to Code Sections 155.098 and 154.100 at their March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, stated Mr. Schmiesing.

Commissioner Vogt voiced his opinion concerning the City not helping the businesses with signage during the closing of E. Ash Street.

City Manager Huff explained the City has put together an Alternate Business Access Program stating temporary signage has been established. The businesses that are affected by the closure were notified and if they wanted to be included they either sent their company logo or just their company name in to be put on the temporary signage directing customers to their businesses. The change in the Zoning Code allows for signage to be up longer than 90 days since the construction will take approximately seven months to complete.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there would be signs at all of the intersections directing customers to the locations of each of the businesses in the construction area. City Manager Huff stated there would be signage at the intersections directing customers to the businesses affected by the closure.

### **Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 8-12.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the rule requiring Ordinance No. 8-12 to be read fully and distinctly on three separate days be suspended. Roll call: Aye: Vogt, Wilson, Martin, Terry, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, to adopt Ordinance No. 8-12. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Martin, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess declared Ordinance No. 8-12 adopted.

**RESOLUTIONS NO. R-62-12, R-63-12, and R-64-12 have been removed from the agenda by the Commissioners; no action was taken on these items as previously stated by City Manager Huff.**

**RES. NO. R-65-12**

A Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2012 Community Housing Improvement Program application and authorizing the City Manager to submit the application

Community Development Director Bill Lutz gave a brief explanation of the 2012 Community Housing Improvement Program application.

Since 2001, the City of Piqua has received over 2.5 million in competitive grant funding to administer the local Community Housing Improvements Program. This year the city has been invited by the Ohio Department of Development to apply for \$500,000 to provide housing opportunities to low and moderate-income households. On February 13 a public meeting was held with representatives from human service organization, local landlord association, realtors and the general public in attendance.

Those individuals in the meeting prioritized the activities proposed in the application. Activities rated as High were: Emergency Monthly Housing Assistance, Home Repair, and Private Owner Rehabilitation.

Activities rated as Medium were: New Construction, Demolition, and Tenant Based Rental Assistance.

Activities rated as Low were: Homebuyer Counseling.

Activities rated Very Low were: Rental Rehabilitation.

A second meeting was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> for final comments on the application before submitting it to the Ohio Department of Development for consideration. It was noted that funding for the Community Housing Improvement Program is extremely competitive, since funding for CDBG allocations have been cut by 8%, and the Home allocation has been cut 37%.

There were several questions raised concerning what would happen if the City did not receive the grant, how the grants are awarded, and are the grants awarded on a first come first serve type of basis. Further questions regarding stipulations on how often residents can apply for assistance, the allotted amount of funds one applicant can apply for, and how the applicants are chosen to receive the funding. Mr. Lutz explained how the program works and how the money is distributed.

Mayor Fess stated Mr. Lutz has been very successful in getting these grants in the past and we are very hopeful we will receive this one.

“Whenever Bill writes a grant, we get it”, commented Commissioner Wilson.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-65-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-65-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-65-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-66-12**

A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Council of the City of Piqua for the purpose of the administration of the City of Piqua's Enterprise Zone Program, as required by Section 5709.85 (C) (1) of the Ohio Revised Code

Community Development Director Bill Lutz explained the City of Piqua's Tax Incentive Review Council met on March 8, 2012 for the purpose of reviewing the one current agreement Crane Pumps and Systems and provided a recommendation to approve the current agreement for another year. Crane Pumps and Systems received their Enterprise Zone Agreement in 2002 and are scheduled to expire the end of 2012. Mr. Lutz reviewed the capital investment and job creation guidelines and stated the TIRC recommends to the City Commission that the Crane Pumps and Systems Enterprise Zone agreement continue.

There was discussion concerning Crane Pumps and Systems not being unable to meet their capital investment, and the pledged level of employment. Mr. Lutz stated when the original agreement was made in 2002 the economic environment was more favorable than it is today, and that they should not be penalized for not having the employment levels that were originally pledged.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-66-12

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-66-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-66-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-67-12**

A Resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-67-12 appoints David Zimmerman to the Community Diversity Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 1, 2014.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-67-12

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-67-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Martin, Wilson, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-67-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-68-12**

A Resolution appointing a member to the Community Diversity Committee

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-68-12 appoints Doug Smith to the Community Diversity Committee for a term of one (1) year to expire on March 1, 2013.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-68-12

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt, that Resolution No. R-68-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Vogt, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-68-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-69-12**

A Resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

City Manager Huff stated Resolution No. R-69-12 appoints Joe Drapp to the Energy Board to fill the unexpired term of Mike Cox to expire on March 1, 2016.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-69-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-69-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Vogt, Fess, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-69-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-70-12**

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Todd Brandenburg, Wastewater Superintendent explained Resolution No. R-70-12 requests authorization to establish a mutual aid agreement with the Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network for sharing emergency resources among water and wastewater agencies statewide. By joining the WARN, the City of Piqua will open doors with neighboring utilities allowing resource sharing opportunities from simple items such as specialized pump parts in inventory to emergency generators and pumping equipment during city-wide disasters. There is no membership fee involved and by having a membership with the Ohio WARN it decreases the city's vulnerability and increases the reliability to provide essential water and wastewater services in the event of a catastrophe, stated Mr. Brandenburg. The only cost would be made by requesting members to reimburse responding members according to terms specified, and expenses will only be incurred in the event of a response to a request for assistance.

There was discussion of the cost involved, if only personal was sent out instead of equipment, and how that would be handled. It was noted that the city could deny a request if they were unable to respond or have the equipment available at that time.

Utilities Director Dave Burtner stated there is not always a need for manpower, sometimes the need is just for equipment. Mr. Burtner further stated the City of Piqua is also on a number of other lists for the same type of services.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-70-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-70-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Terry, Fess, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-70-12 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-71-12**

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Best Equipment Co. Inc. for the purchase of a 2012 Sewer Mainline CCTV Inspection Unit

Todd Brandenburg gave a brief explanation of what the Sewer Mainline CCTV Inspection Unit is and how it will be utilized.

There was discussion on the cost of the Unit, and if it was a budget line item this year. One of the questions posed were any of the employees who would be operating the Inspection Unit able to operate the unit or was it just the salesman. Mr. Brandenburg stated several of the City employees who will be operating the CCTV Inspection Unit were able to operate the unit to get first-hand experience.

### **Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-71-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-71-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Terry, Fess, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-71-12 adopted.

### **Monthly Reports – January 2013**

Monthly Reports for January 2013 were accepted.

### **Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for citizens to address the City Commission regarding issues or to provide information. Comments are requested to be limited to five (5) minutes and specific questions should be addressed to the City Manager's office.

Scott Phillips a member of the Middle Watershed Alliance congratulated the Water Department staff for their source water protection plan and stated the first River Summit is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Piqua Plaza and invited citizens to attend.

Jeff Lange also a member of the Middle Great Miami River Watershed Alliance congratulated the Water Department staff and announced the Protecting Our Waterways (POWW) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual City River Clean-up is scheduled for July 21, 2012 and invited citizens to participate.

### **City Manager's Report**

#### **Economic Development Update – Mr. Bill Murphy**

City Manager Huff gave a brief update stating that Grow Piqua Now set a goal for \$50,000 in dues for 2012, and has collected \$51,600 to date, with still more to come in, and he is very pleased. Mayor Fess stated Grow Piqua Now is doing a great job.

City Planner Chris Schmiesing explained the Alternate Business Access Program. The program is intended to help and support the local businesses during the road construction that requires an extended closure of the street. The City will provide affected businesses the opportunity to include their business name and logo on the temporary traffic control signage located in the public right-of way. The signage will help guide patrons and delivery vehicles along alternate routes to the businesses. The temporary traffic control signage will be made, installed, and maintained by the City of Piqua at no cost to the business. The City will also allow businesses in the construction zone to maintain temporary signage for the entire duration of the project rather than the current 90 day limit.

There were several questions raised regarding the guidelines being followed to have the business name or logo on the sign, along with the size of the signs and how far away they could be read. Mr. Schmiesing explained the guidelines followed, further explaining the signage can be read while a vehicle is traveling at 25 MPH. Logo's are easily recognized better than wording and

encouraged businesses to send in their logo if possible. Mr. Schmiesing also explained the signage stating "open to local traffic only" located by the Miami Valley Centre entrance.

### **Department Update – Utilities Department – Mr. Dave Burtner**

Mr. Burtner gave a brief update on the Utilities Department.

The City of Piqua reorganized the department in August 2009 using only current staff. By combining forces they were able to establish the Underground Utilities, Wastewater Collections & Water Distribution. The current Water Treatment Plant was built in 1925 and was remodeled after a flood in 1961. In 1973 a Sludge Line was ran to the quarry, in 1983 a new Sludge/Wash Water Facility was built, and in 1990 the Chlorine/Fluoride Facility was completed.

The first Waste Water Treatment Plant was built in 1938-39 on the west side of the Miami River/2.5 MGD. The second Waste Water Treatment Plant was built in 1957-58 on the east side of the Miami River/ 4.0 OMGD. The current site was upgrade in 1988-92 with Ammonia Removal/4.5 MGD. An EQ Basin/Backup Generator was added in 2009.

The Underground Utilities Department performs maintenance on all underground Water, Wastewater and Storm water pipes and structures in the City of Piqua. They maintain all Fire Hydrants, monitor the City Backflow Prevention Program, and maintain the Water Meter Service and Repair.

The City of Piqua can now track the flow of storm water throughout the city with the new GIS Mapping System, and currently there are around 7,000 storm water structures (Man Holes and Catch Basins). About 60% of all the storm water in the City of Piqua will run through the storm system, which runs straight to the river and is untreated.

Current Issues under consideration are:

- New Water Treatment Plant
- Water Plant & Water Distribution System Master Plans
- Wastewater Plant & Sewer Collection System Master Plan
- All Master Plans should be completed in the summer of 2012.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Burtner for his very informative update.

### **Commissioner Comment**

Commissioner Wilson stated while he was on the Bike Path he spotted Mr. Lange cleaning up along the path. Commissioner Wilson asked if it would be possible to provide a few more trash receptacles on the Bike Path.

Commissioner Wilson congratulated Greg Snipes, a city employee who was named Volleyball Coach of the Year for 2011.

Commissioner Terry announced the North Parks Neighborhood Association Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 27, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at Wilder School on Nicklin Avenue.

Commissioner Vogt apologized for some of the comments he made earlier about the City not providing signage for the businesses affected by the street closure.

Commissioner Vogt stated the Echo Hills Municipal Golf Course is open now, and is a beautiful asset to the City of Piqua. This year they are offering a new membership that can be used only during the week at reduced rates. Information can be obtained by contacting the Golf Course.

Commissioner Martin asked if it would be possible to have a notice scrolling across the bottom of the screen on Channel 5 informing citizens the businesses in the Ash Street Construction area are still open for business during the reconstruction process.

Mayor Fess reminded citizens to attend the River Summit on May 10, at 7: 00 P.M. at the Fort Piqua Plaza. Also a Senior Dance sponsored by the YMCA is scheduled for May 12, 2012 at the Fort Piqua Plaza and invited all seniors to come out and dance.

Jeff Lange came forward and stated the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual River Summit sponsored by University of Dayton is scheduled for Thursday March 29, 2012. City Planner Chris Schmiesing has put together information on all the efforts of the local environmental Watershed groups to have a booth at the River Summit. Mr. Lange thanked the City for allowing all of the various groups to share a table with them at the River Summit.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 8:45 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Martin, Wilson, Vogt, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucinda L. Fess, Mayor

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

REBECCA J. COOL  
CLERK OF COMMISSION