

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday April 3, 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.

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Approval of the minutes from the March 20, 2012 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting. Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vogt that the minutes of the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting of March 20, 2012 be approved. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Wilson, Martin, Terry, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

ORD. NO. 9-12 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Piqua

Law Director Stacy Wall explained all the Ordinances adopted by the City Commission in 2011 were sent to American Legal Publishing Corporation. Ms. Wall stated she has reviewed all the changes and has recommended the revision or addition of certain sections of the Code of Ordinances, which are based on or make reference to the Ohio Code. It is the intent of the Piqua City Commission to accept these updated sections in accordance with the changes of the law of the State of Ohio, and accept the 2011 supplement to the Piqua Code of Ordinance of the City of Piqua that has been submitted by American Legal Publishing Corporation.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 9-12.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that the rule requiring Ordinance No. 9-12 to be read fully and distinctly on three separate days be suspended. Roll call: Aye: Terry, Wilson, Vogt, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt Ordinance No.9-12. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Fess, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess declared Ordinance No. 9-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-72-12

A Resolution awarding a contract for the lease of a Pitney Bowes Mail Stream Postage Machine for the City of Piqua

Finance Director Cynthia Holtzapple stated the City has leased the postage machine and meter from Pitney Bowes for the last 5 years on the state bid award. We are proposing the same arrangement again with their newest machine available at this time. The Post Office continues to change their rate structures, postage price and etc. and with the Pitney Bowes lease, all of these types of changes are covered at no additional cost. The current lease expires June 30, 2012 and would like to have the new machine up and running by this date if possible.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-72-12

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that Resolution No. R-72-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Vogt, Martin, Fess, Terry, and Wilson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-72-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-73-12

A Resolution requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Alpha Boats Unlimited for the purchase of an Aquatic Weed Harvester

Storm Water Coordinator Devon Alexander stated in late summer of 2011 the City was able to acquire a grant from the Lundgard Foundation Association in the amount of \$112,500 for the purchase of an Aquatic Weed Harvester. A weed harvester is a barge style boat that is used to remove aquatic weeds, also helps with water quality and gives a better aesthetic appearance throughout the lakes and canal systems. The weed harvester is about 30 feet long and will have a five-foot wide head. A total of five manufactures submitted bids. Due to other manufactures not meeting the specifications or price limitations, it was decided that the Alpha Boats Unlimited Weed Harvester would be the best fit for the City's needs. The funds received will cover the full purchase price of the machine, as well as allow the city to purchase a small parts package for future maintenance, said Mr. Alexander.

There was discussion concerning the locations for the harvester to be put in the water, what the noise level would be when in operation, if the engine was self-contained, what would be done with the weeds once they are removed from the water, how wide the cutting blade is, if the cutting blade was hinged to raise in and out of the water when not in use, and if the machine would be able to go under all of the bridges on the waterways Mr. Alexander stated the operators will have the ability to adjust the depth of the cutting head, which will limit the amount of damage to the waterways. After the plants have been harvested they will be taken to the city compost center. The weed harvester is powered by a diesel engine and will be operated at low RPM level to reduce noise during operation. There is one bridge in question that may cause a problem, but depends on the water level at the time it is be used. The weed harvester will be placed in the water at different locations, but may need to install several new ramps at Swift Run Lake and Franz Pond in the future.

It was noted that the Division of Wildlife would be contacted due to the time of year the fish would be spawning as to not disturb them. The delivery date on the harvester and trailer is about twenty-one days, and the conveyer should take about sixty days to come in once the order is placed, stated Mr. Alexander.

Public Comment

Jeff Lange came forward stating he applauded the City of Piqua and the Lundgard Foundation for purchasing the Aquatic Weed Harvester, as it is much needed to help with the preservation of our waterways. Mr. Lange noted this is not the first weed harvester the City has owned. The first one was about 12-14 feet long and was powered by a little Johnson Outboard Motor and was purchase in the 1960's, but only lasted about two to three years.

Mayor Fess thanked the Community Action Committee for doing the research on the weed harvester, and further stated the residents along the waterways will be happy to have some of the weeds removed.

Mr. Lange stated that Thursday, May 3rd is the first Annual Middle Great Miami River Watershed Alliance River Summit being held at the Fort Piqua Plaza at 7:00 P.M. and encouraged all to attend.

Mayor Fess thanked the Lundgard Foundation for helping the City purchase the much needed weed harvester.

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-73-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Martin, Fess, Terry, Wilson, and Vogt. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-73-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-74-12

A Resolution awarding a contract for the collection of recyclable material in the City

Health & Sanitation Director Amy Welker explained the City of Piqua has operated a curb-side recycling program since 1992 with Piqua being a part of the Miami County Solid Waste District, which is under a recycling mandate from the EPA. The District has a goal of 25% residential waste reduction from recycling. The District is able to meet this goal due to the curb-side recycling programs in Piqua and Troy.

The City received two bids, the other one was from Waste Management. We also asked for an alternate bid for the wheeled bins, stated Ms. Welker. Rumpke of Ohio offered to rent 64 gallon wheeled containers with lids directly to customers at a cost of \$2.50 per month-billed quarterly, but did not want to bid a contract.

The curb-side recycling in Piqua has seen an increase in tonnage over last year going from 13% to 16% in recycling. The City of Piqua and the City of Troy have jointly bid this service and asked for a cost reduction if both cities awarded the contract to the same contractor. Rumpke of Ohio offered a 3% reduction on the bid price if both cities signed contracts with them. Rumpke will also provide educational materials which includes flyers mailed to residents, news releases, curriculum packets for school used, videos, and participation by the vendor at festivals or other public events, stated Ms. Welker.

Matthew McNelly, representing Rumpke of Ohio came forward and gave a brief overview of the recycling program, and the type of bins they would supply. Mr. McNeely also explained what type of other recycling containers they would accept for recycling. One of the problems with customers using other recycling bins other than Rumpke owned ones is the liability for damage to a container that is not their own, stated Mr. McNelly.

Public Comment

Brad Boehringer, Mound Street asked if it would be possible for residents that live in apartments to recycle since they have a private hauler and are not on the City refuse program. Mr. Boehringer stated he would be willing to purchase one of the larger bins and let his neighbors use it if possible. City Manager Huff stated he would look into the questions raised regarding the larger bins and the issue with apartment residents and recycling.

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-74-12 be adopted. Voice vote, Aye: Fess, Terry, Wilson, Vogt, and Martin. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-74-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-75-12

A Resolution authorizing a three-year lease with Piqua Youth Soccer Association (PYSA)

Law Director Wall stated the Piqua Youth Soccer Association has expressed their desire to renew the lease for the use of the Soccer Fields located at Pitsenbarger Park for a three-year period. The lease will be the same as the last one with the exception it will be a three year lease instead of five, with a yearly rent of One Dollar (\$1.00) due the first day of March each year. There have been several issues over the years with the five-year lease and City Manager Huff stated he would like to see how things work out with the shorter lease. There was also some concern raised over the Strawberry Festival Soccer Tournament held at Pitsenbarger, and the mowing of the grass on the fields.

Commissioner Wilson stated the City has addressed the past misunderstandings and they have all been resolved. Law Director Wall stated she and Bill Murphy met with the Soccer Association and were able to resolve all the issues they had.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-75-12

Moved by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that Resolution No. R-75-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Terry, Wilson, Vogt, Martin, and Fess. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-75-12 adopted.

RES. NO. R-76-12

A Resolution authorizing a three-year lease with Piqua Youth Football Association

Law Director Wall stated the Piqua Youth Football Association has expressed their desire to renew the lease for the use of the fields located at Pitsenbarger Park for a three-year period. The lease will be the same and there was an amendment regarding the use of some of the property that was incorporated in the new lease, and this will also be a three year lease instead of five, with a yearly rent of One Dollar (\$1.00) due the first day of March each year. There is a building at Pitsenbarger currently being used by the PYFA for storage and it is not in the best condition and may have to be torn down. The PYFA is aware the City is not responsible for finding a new storage area for them if the current building is torn down, stated Law Director Wall.

Public Comment

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-76-12

Moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Terry, that Resolution No. R-76-12 be adopted. Roll call, Aye: Wilson, Vogt, Martin, Fess, and Terry. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Fess then declared Resolution No. R-76-12 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.

Ralph Pritchard, Fourth Street inquired as to when the restrooms at Fountain Park would be opening. City Manager Huff stated they should be opening any day now.

Jeff Lange thanked the City and especially City Planner Chris Schmiesing for their help at the 5th Annual River Summit held at the University of Dayton recently. There were about 170 attendees, 25 displays from all around Ohio's Great Corridor, three speakers from the City of Chattanooga and the Lyndhurst Foundation. Piqua businessman Jim Hartzell was also a guest speaker. Mr. Lange stated Scott Phillips, Randy Kirchner, and Stu Sherear also attended the event and thanked the City for their part in representing Piqua at the River Summit. Mr. Lange also thanked Beth Royer of the Piqua Daily Call for her coverage of the event.

Mr. Lange asked when the next Commission Work Session would be held to discuss with the public the opportunity of building a new Water Treatment Plant, and the possibility of joining with the City of Troy. City Manager Huff stated they have not received all of the information that was requested from the consultants as of yet, and as soon as it comes they will present it to the Commissioner in a work session. This could possibly be in May, stated City Manager Huff.

Mr. Lange further stated the Adopt- A- Park Program is listed on the City website, and encouraged citizens to get out and adopt any public place, a Park, boulevard, street, etc.

City Manager Huff explained how the Adopt-A-Park Program works when citizens adopt a specific area, and stated he has even received a request to Adopt A Fire Hydrant.

Larry Hamilton, Maplewood Drive, came forward and voiced his opinion on naming of public property in the City of Piqua. Mr. Hamilton further stated at this time he was withdrawing from the Community Diversity Committee, and his resignation from this group is effective immediately.

Mr. Hamilton encouraged the community to come together for a grassroots discussion providing input to the Piqua Board of Education on the naming of three new schools at the Hartzell Center for the Performing Arts at the Piqua High School on April 24, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Hamilton for his comments and his service on the Committee.

City Manager's Report

Economic Development Update

City Manager Huff stated Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager was out of town and gave a brief update. Westcon, Inc. has announced they plan an expansion of about 30,000 square feet, and plan to add another 40 employees. Currently they have about 40 employees on site now. This is great news for the City, and we anticipate having another announcement shortly on a similar expansion project within the community, said City Manager Huff.

Community Development Director Bill Lutz gave a brief update on several new programs that include the INVOLVE, Adopt- A- Program, and the Piqua Government Academy. All of these programs work to enhance our community's quality of life. Mr. Lutz explained how these initiatives are designed to encourage community participation and provide a sense of pride and ownership and make the City of Piqua a desirable place to live, work, and play with family, friends, and neighbors.

INVOLVE stands for Interested Neighbors Volunteering Valuable Energy and was launched in December of 2011. The program assists residents with small no cost property maintenance issues they are unable to handle by themselves. Some of the activities include: snow shoveling, raking lawns, house and window washing etc. Anyone interested in helping or in need of assistance can go to the website for an application. They will match those people in need with those people who have offered their assistance. Mr. Lutz stated currently he has five volunteers and one volunteer group.

The Adopt-a-Program is a program for individuals, groups or organizations to help provide maintenance to various public areas such as Parks, Trails, even parking lots that need attention. There is a list of available adoption sites on the city website along with a registration form. Almost anything in the community can be adopted, stated Mr. Lutz. Participants are encouraged to take care of their adopted area as needed and to report any problems or issues to the City. City Manager Huff explained the Park Board would set the requirements for any of the Park issues. Also the Park board will approve the applicants and they will be given a packet of information.

Mr. Lutz stated May 5th, 2012 is the citywide cleanup day. This is a citywide volunteer effort to clean up the parks, paths, and any public areas and will begin at 8:00 A.M. and conclude at 12:00 with an old fashion picnic at Mote Park hosted by the Southview Neighborhood Association. Anyone wishing to participate is encouraged to go online at www.piquaoh.org and register.

The City's first Government Academy will begin on Wednesday evening, April 4th and run for eleven consecutive weeks with 23 participants signed up. The Academy is designed to give participants a behind-the-scenes look at the city's operations. Further information on any of the programs can be found at www.piquaoh.org or by contacting Program Manager Bill Lutz at 778-2062.

Mayor Fess thanked Mr. Lutz for his presentation, and stated the city is very excited about these new programs and the response they have received. City Manager Huff commented that Mr. Lutz came forward and offered his initiative and energy to these programs and we certainly appreciate it.

Department Update – Piqua Fire Department – Chief Mike Rindler

Fire Chief Mike Rindler gave a very informative power point presentation on what the Fire Department provides to the community, and showing the Fire Department Organizational chart. The City of Piqua Firefighters receive the highest level of training possible. Fire Chief Rindler explained the various types of call and assignments starting with the basic Structure Fire where six firefighters are sent out leaving no one in the Fire Department for other calls. Vehicle Accidents usually require four Firefighter/Paramedics being sent out leaving only two on station. EMS runs where a Code comes in when a person is not breathing/has no pulse or is an unstable patient usually requires two to six Firefighter/Paramedics being sent out depending on the nature of the call, leaving a minimum number on station. Haz-Mat and Weapons of Mass Destruction calls require a (Technician Level Group) be sent out. Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, High Angle and Tower Rescue, River Rescue, Public Safety Dive Team are all manned by all the same Paramedics/ Firefighters and may also include Police and the Buckeye Search and Rescue. Several photos of local fires and paramedic rescues were shown. Fire Chief Rindler stated they are short one Firefighter Level II Paramedic, Haz-Mat- WMD Technician, Public Safety Diver, Rope and River Rescue he is Sgt. Timothy Risner who is serving in the United States Army National Guard and deployed at this time, but hope to have him back home soon. Fire Chief Rindler further explained Fire Prevention and the Investigation Bureau duties, along with Fire Safety Education in the community. A response comparison chart was presented showing the Fire runs, EMS runs, and the number of staff from 1986 to 2011. The cost of Fire/EMS Services listed in 2003 with expenses were \$2,909,622 with revenue of \$103,412 and a balance of \$2,806,210. In 2011 the expenses were \$3,333,112 with revenue of \$1,015,145 and a balance of \$2,317,967. The ICMA per Capita Cost per citizen is \$137.73, with the US Average Annual per Capita Cost per citizen being \$167.96 compared to communities of similar population. Fire Chief Rindler stated he is very proud of his Firefighters/Paramedics and their level of expertise they offer to the community.

Mayor Fess thanked Fire Chief Rindler for his very informative presentation. Further stating she is very proud of the Piqua Fire and Police Departments who do more with less in these hard economic times, acknowledging they always put safety first.

City Manager Huff stated the Piqua Government Academy will begin on April 3, 2012, the Community Workshop on the Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment will be held on April 9 from 7:00-8:30 P.M. at the Fort Piqua Plaza, and the City Commission Work Session is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th, at 7:30 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers.

Mayor Fess thanked City Manager Huff for his input and all the work he has been doing in moving the city forward.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Wilson stated the Safety Services Banquet was held recently at the YWCA and acknowledged the Police and Fire award recipients. The Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce are sponsors for the banquet, the K of C provides the special awards, and donations are also received from local businesses. We all tend to take the Police and Fire Departments for granted, and this is a great way to show our appreciation, stated Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Wilson asked for an update on the hospital site demolition project. Bill Lutz gave a brief update on the status of the demolition project, which is scheduled to begin within a week or so, with a completion date scheduled for mid July 2012. There was discussion of the possibility of a web cam to watch the demolition; this is something they are still looking into stated City Manager Huff.

Commissioner Wilson also inquired about the status of the Skateboard Park, and a possible completion date. City Manager Huff explained they are in the process of getting some drawings together and possibly a scale model rendering that can be brought in soon. The plan is to have the Skateboard Park completed in June of 2012, stated City Manager Huff.

Commissioner Terry stated she attended the Piqua Dancing with the Stars sponsored by the Piqua Arts Council. It was a lot of fun and a very nice event that raised \$28,000 for the Piqua Arts Council.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the city grass cutting especially in the boulevard areas. City Manager Huff stated they met recently and there are plans to start mowing in the near future. Commissioner Terry reminded residents not to blow their grass clippings out into the gutter, stating clippings should be picked up and put in bags or trashcans and set out for the refuse trucks.

Commissioner Terry also mentioned a Historical Presentation is scheduled for April 12, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. at the Johnston Farm; "An Evening With General Sherman" and encouraged citizens to attend.

Commissioner Vogt stated City Manager Huff implemented a new program, "Breakfast with City Departments". So far they have had breakfast with the Police and Fire Departments and stating "we are all safe after seeing the thorough training they go through". We get a lot from these individuals and we need to thank them all for their dedication to the community.

Commissioner Vogt stated the City Parks and the Municipal Golf are open now; also season passes are also available for the Community Swimming Pool. Commissioner Vogt encouraged citizens to participate to support the city facilities.

Commissioner Martin thanked all who are participating in the recycling program as tonnage is up, and encouraged citizens to continue to recycle to keep the refuse fees down.

Mayor Fess congratulated the Police and Fire Award recipients, and thanked the YWCA for providing the wonderful meal.

Mayor Fess stated at the Breakfast with the Fire Department Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Terry had the courage to go up in the ladder truck to see the city from a birds eye view.

Mayor Fess stated she attended the Piqua Dancing WithThe Stars and congratulated winners Scott Phillips and Laura Bates, further stating all of the dancers did a great job.

Mayor Fess reminded citizens the Third Annual Soring Swing Dance will be held on May 12, 2012 at 7:30 in the Grand Ballroom at the Fort Piqua Plaza. Tickets are still available at the YWCA.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting at 9:00 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