

**MINUTES  
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, July 18, 2017  
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 Hinds called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Terry, Wilson, Martin and Vogt.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ruth Koon and Anna Baumeister, on behalf of the Piqua Chamber, spoke on a project they are working on together, originated by Ruth Koon. The Chamber of Commerce is establishing a school yard garden for all fifth grade children in Piqua. The name of the garden will be The Garden Tribe School Yard Garden and it will be the largest in Miami County. There will be 13 individual raised gardens within the garden and it will be located across from the new intermediate school at the old Nicklin School empty lot. Build day will be Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:00/8:30 A.M. There has been amazing community support with funding and getting the beds in order and placed. The project will involve over 250 Piqua fifth graders. Stakeholders involved are Piqua Superintendent, Dwayne Thompson, Principal of Piqua Central Intermediate School, Josh Kauffman, Curriculum Director, Scott Bloom, Principal of Piqua Catholic School, Georgia Hertenstein, and the 70 master gardeners in Miami County, a dozen of who are going to be the teachers for the children. A teacher will accompany each master gardener with each class, consisting of approximately 25 children per class. Mark Casto designed the garden, who will be the coordinator on build day. The 13 raised gardens are sponsored by an individual or business for each respective garden, in addition to numerous foundations in the area. On August 17, 2017, at 5:00 P.M. there will be a Business After Hours for the Chamber in the garden, at which time Piqua City School District and Piqua Catholic School will be presented with the garden as a resource for their teaching and for the students. A six foot fence will be required to surround the garden and funding is still needed to help with that.

Mayor Hinds attended a planning meeting for the garden and is excited to see how the garden starts to grow and where the city can go with this.

**PROCLAMATION: HARTZELL PROPELLER – 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Mayor Hinds attended a staff meeting at Hartzell Propeller where the proclamation was presented, which can be seen on the mayor's blog and on the city website. First Ward Commissioner Martin has been employed at Hartzell for 29 years and the city acknowledges the celebration for him and all the other employees of Hartzell Propeller.

**PRESENTATION: PROTECT RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Police Chief Bruce Jamison spoke addressing the heroin epidemic. The Protect Recovery Program is the community engagement tool for the Piqua Police Department. The Police Department has been active with Coffee with a Cop, Kickball with a Cop, National Night Out, RAD, Don't Serve Teens, and numerous other programs used to educate the community or to make some differences in the community. Protect is run by a board of trustees and allows there to be less expenses from the city budget. The DARE program is not used anymore and that board is now the Protect Board, but the Police Department continues to use efforts to reduce drug use among children and adults. There is a Protect officer on every shift. That officer, after an overdose or after an incident is identified, goes out and provides a list of resources to the person or people that are drug dependent and requests that they have a HEART meeting with the Police Department. HEART is a committee formed with the Miami County Recovery Council, which

stands for Heroin Education and Addiction Recovery Team, and at this point is still in the process of kicking off. There is a staff person who is funded, partially, to help with HEART, and that person is Amy Cost, community outreach specialist. She will be the expert on knowing what resources are available and coordinating treatment or access to those resources.

Two other impressive programs are the QRT Program out of Colerain Township and the DART Program out of Toledo, both of which are very intense with the law enforcement staff. The Attorney General released a press release that there will be 3 million dollars in grants available to communities to help with these programs, so Piqua is hopeful they will be able to receive some funding.

Chief Jamison further stated that getting the drug dealers off the street is the best way to make a big impact on the heroin problem. Piqua Fire and EMS will have a paramedic able to sit down with addicts and recovery specialists from MCRC or another organization, the police department chaplain and a pharmacist are also available, whoever is needed. What is unique to Piqua's program is there is access to a treatment center in Florida, which makes it possible to get the addict out of town and away from the environment. Shawn Poling, a Piqua native and recovering addict, has the resources to help out the recovering addict in this center, and he has a heart for Piqua to help these addicts. Also, the addicts have a volunteer recovery mentor assigned. That volunteer need is immediate for anybody interested in volunteering. The police department will use their existing volunteer program, which does include screening, but some of the best volunteers are going to be people with criminal records because they've been in that situation and can provide a measure of hope to these addicts that the police officers just cannot do. The official kick off for the program was July 1<sup>st</sup> and since then direct contact has been happening with overdose victims after every overdose and offering the resources that we can.

City Manager Huff commended the efforts of Chief Jamison and the police department in addressing the addiction problems, which are related to property crimes and theft, and focusing on trying to remove the dealers off the street. Doing predictive policing, in which they have developed a community crime map and are able to determine where crime is happening and putting core patrols in those areas, has been a benefit. City Manager Huff further stated that crime statistics from 2015 to 2016 have decreased in the city with a 50% reduction in robberies, a 15% reduction in property crimes and an almost 5% decrease in violent crimes. The efforts of the police department are having some impact and that needs to continue. There are issues out there that have to be dealt with and the police department continues to be proactive in working those areas to try to reduce the addictions, which also lead to other crime. There is positive impact and that needs to continue. City Manager Huff personally commended the Chief and the police department for their efforts to date on addressing a huge issue, which is across the United States.

Mayor Hinds commended the team approach and the different people who will fill the different jobs on the team all working together to help the addict. She is excited for the community to bring this issue to fruition and move forward. Mayor Hinds further noted she loves the HEART name because it just says so much about what the city is trying to do for our citizens.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORD. NO. 5-17 (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO PAY FOR THE COST OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT ASSESSMENT**

Amy Welker, Health & Sanitation Director, spoke stating this is the annual Ordinance that is brought before the commissioners each year at this time to assess costs that the Health Department incurs throughout the year to abate nuisance conditions on properties. The Health Department receives complaints throughout the year on properties that aren't being maintained, either the grass is not being cut, there is trash on the property, debris, different things of that nature. The Health Department does an investigation; they contact the property owner to let them

know that there is a violation of the city ordinance and that they need to correct that situation. If the property owner fails to do so, the Health Department then hires contractors to go out and clean up, mow, and do whatever needs to be done to get the property into compliance. The property owner is billed for the cost of that service, along with administrative fees. If the property owner fails to pay that cost, their name will show up on this list and the Health Department then places those costs onto the property taxes for the property and that's the Health Department's way of recouping that cost that the city incurred. This year there has been just over \$55,000.00 worth of assessments. There is an escalating administrative fee that is applied, so after a third or fourth offense an extra \$100.00 is assessed to the cost and after the fifth offense or more it goes up to \$500.00. Some of the properties that are repeat offenders do incur quite a bit of costs just for things like not mowing the grass, but that's in place to try to discourage people from not complying and taking care of their properties.

Commissioner Vogt noted that the Staff Report contained an error as to the reading dates for this Ordinance. The Report should say the readings will be August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Wilson noted that he has received several complaints with respect to grass and trash.

Health & Sanitation Director Welker stated the number for any citizen wishing to make a complaint is 937.778.2060.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 5-17.

Ordinance No. 5-17 will stand as a 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

#### **ORD. NO. 6-17 (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ANNEXATION OF CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY OWNED BY THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND THE STATE

Stacy Wall, Law Director, spoke stating this Ordinance was written as an emergency and asked for a motion to waive the three reading rule based on the fact that this land was purchased from Piqua Materials to do the wastewater plant expansion. The city is applying for the loan and the bids are in for construction. The reason for the emergency is so the city can get the process going with the county, which takes quite a bit of time, so that when the city does start construction, those tax dollars are coming in to the city. This annexation would remove the property from the township.

Motion made by Commissioner Vogt to waive the three reading rule; seconded by Commissioner Martin; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared the three reading rule waived.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Ordinance No. 6-17.

Motion made by Commissioner Vogt; seconded by Commissioner Martin; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared Ord. No. 6-17 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-103-17**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE USAGE OF MOTE PARK TO PJEF, INC. PROTECT

Police Chief Bruce Jamison spoke stating this is the entity the city has been asked to enter into a lease with in order to conduct Hope Over Heroin, which is a faith based two-day event. Chief Jamison was approached in January as to whether or not there is a place in Piqua that is in the middle of a neighborhood that is easy access for people to walk to. Miami County Recovery Council and other helping groups will be there to give information on recovery. The largest financial contributions are coming from some Piqua entities, but also the number of volunteers it takes to do this is remarkable, and they're all stepping up from churches all over the county, but because it's being hosted in Piqua, a lot of help is coming from Piqua churches. There will be entertainment and free meals. Last year about 3,000 hot dogs were served each night. The entertainment will cease at 9:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Resolution No. R-103-17.

Motion made by Commissioner Martin; seconded by Commissioner Vogt; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared Res. No. R-103-17 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-104-17**

A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PAY BRUMBAUGH CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERFORMED FOR THE REPAIR OF THE HOLLOW PARK BRIDGE

Amy Havenar, City Engineer, spoke stating the city received a complaint from a citizen about the pavement in Hollow Park. After investigating the pavement over the bridge in Hollow Park, City Engineer Havenar determined that there are some issues with the bridge. Lockwood, Jones and Beals, the city's bridge contractor/engineer, was called in to do a full inspection. The results of that inspection showed some undermining of the footers at the bridge, which was causing some movement, hence the reason some of the pavement is failing around the bridge. It was determined it best not to leave that bridge open to traffic, but with it being used frequently on weekends, City Manager Huff recommended that the repairs move forward. City Engineer Havenar contacted the County Engineer who recommended Brumbaugh Construction and they were able to provide the city with a price that the city's bridge engineer and the city agreed was acceptable. The repairs have started and are believed to be another one to two weeks before completion.

City Manager Huff stated that the consultants recommended trucks not be allowed to go over the bridge. The bridge was signed to make sure those trucks were alerted not to cross it, but it needed taken care of as quickly as possible so that nobody would have time to ignore it and actually have an accident and cause it to fall. Based on that, City Engineer Havenar deemed it an emergency that needed taken care of immediately.

City Engineer Havenar confirmed all access to the bridge is closed during the week. The weekend of July 21<sup>st</sup> it should be far enough along to open it up to individuals that have rented, but it will still be posted no trucks to avoid any heavy weight going across it. The bridge will definitely be open Saturday and Sunday for the pre-arranged rentals. At the beginning of the week, it will close again, with the gate being locked, so nobody can get down there while the contractor is there.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Res. No. R-104-17.

Motion made by Commissioner Wilson; seconded by Commissioner Terry; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared Res. No. R-104-17 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-105-17**

A RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION IN SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) FOR REPLACEMENT OF (4) WASTEWATER PUMP STATIONS AND ELIMINATION OF (1) WITH A SEWER INSTALLATION PROJECT

Chris Melvin, Wastewater Superintendent, spoke thanking Amy Havenar and Nikki Reese for their help in developing this application. This Resolution is being submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission for replacement of four lift stations; those being in Orchard, Stratford, Candlewood and Maplewood, and then the lift station at the mall will be eliminated. Authorization is needed to put this application in by the end of July and then more would be known in November if the city would get the loan. Also, there is a grant of \$550,000.00 along with the loan that is being aimed for.

Commissioner Martin questioned how many pump stations the city has. Wastewater Superintendent Melvin stated the city has eight pump stations, four of which are in need of replacement, five including the mall, that will need work done.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Res. No. R-105-17.

Motion made by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Martin; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared Res. No. R-105-17 adopted.

**RES. NO. R-106-17**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF PART OF PARCEL NO. N44-099480 AND THE DISPOSITION OF PART OF PARCEL NO. N44-250260

Ed Krieger, Power System Director, spoke stating the city has had the opportunity to develop a solar generating facility. The power department has been working diligently within the last few months putting all of the pieces of the puzzle together and this is the last legislation required to complete the property acquisition needed for the Staunton Street project, which is basically swapping approximately a half acre piece of property Custom Aerosol owns in exchange for a little bit larger piece of property that the city obtained when it purchased the Staunton Street school project. The Heckmans, owners of Custom Aerosol, have worked hand in hand with the city and everybody identified early on that this would be a win/win scenario to bring this project to conclusion and end up with properties that work well for them and the city. Once the city approves this legislation, the next step will be getting NextEra to move forward with development of this site. The hope is to begin as early as this fall and no later than next spring with the completion of this project.

Commissioner Martin questioned whether the property directly behind Tract II belongs to the City of Piqua. Power System Director Krieger explained that the property is owned by Custom Aerosol. Tract I is also Custom Aerosol's property, so basically they will be exchanging Tract I for

Tract II, which the city obtained when it purchased the Staunton Street school project, and as a result gives the city more opportunity to increase the outcome of its solar project.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward to speak for or against Res. No. R-106-17.

Motion made by Commissioner Martin; seconded by Commissioner Vogt; motion was carried unanimously; Mayor Hinds declared Res. No. R-106-17 adopted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

DJ Burns, of Laura Avenue, commended the city on what is being done with the CSX Bridge. Mr. Burns' other concern is the Piqua Mill building. It is his belief that the owner of the building has no intentions in doing anything with it and is wondering if it can be liquidated by the city from the property owner.

City Manager Huff spoke stating that the city continues to work with the property owner to see if there is willingness to either redevelop or sell the property. With there being no public purpose, eminent domain is not an option; however, the city is hopeful that it will be successful in getting that property transitioned to a developer. Condemning it does no good because that doesn't mean the city takes it, it just means the property owner has to fix it or demolish it. There is a lot of work going on with that property and the city continues to be positive that in the near future there will be some success. The city is working hard on this property because of the Riverfront Development to encourage some change.

Mayor Hinds thanked Mr. Burns for his interest in the community.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Huff spoke stating the Piqua 4<sup>th</sup> Fest was a success thanks to Brittany Van Horn, the city's new Public Relations/Special Events Coordinator, and all of the city staff who participated in various ways to help make the festival a success, along with the tremendous number of volunteers. It was estimated that attendance was 15,000 to 20,000.

The most recent Rock Piqua concert was a success at Lock Nine Park. There was a huge crowd with great music and the car show earlier in the day went just as well.

The CSX bridge painting has been delayed by the contractor due to other commitments. The painting has been rescheduled for the week of July 31<sup>st</sup>.

City Manager Huff sent his best wishes to Clerk of Commission Becky Cool, who was injured in a fall, fracturing both elbows.

Also, on a sad note, seasonal employee Ross Donnelly, son of retired city employee, Rich Donnelly, passed away. Ross was employed at the Echo Hills Golf Course. The city sends condolences to the Donnelly family during this time.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wilson noted he enjoys the Rock Piqua concerts and encourages everyone to attend. The last concert will be August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Terry noted that the city fireworks were great. Also, the city civic band is going to be playing at the Hance Pavilion on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Vogt noted that he also enjoyed the city fireworks, the music was great and everybody seemed to have a great time.

Commissioner Martin noted that following Ord. No. 5-17, the nuisance abatement, is not a hard ordinance to follow.....just mow your grass.

Mayor Hinds commended the city staff for their hard work in all areas, especially on the recent 4<sup>th</sup> Fest.

Also, as reminders, Mayor Hinds stated the Salvation Army lunch program continues and the Piqua City Schools has a bookmobile that will now be traveling with the Salvation Army truck on Tuesdays and Thursdays; the POW cleanup will be held July 22<sup>nd</sup> on the waterways and many thanks to Jeff Lange and his folks for all of their hard work with this project; National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, and our next Rock Piqua concert will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> with Clark Manson headlining and ReFlektion being the opening act.

Motion made by Commissioner Vogt and seconded by Commissioner Martin to adjourn the Regular Commission Meeting at 8:23 P.M.; motion was carried unanimously.

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JOSEPH H. WILSON, ACTING MAYOR

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
KIMBERLY J. HEBB  
ACTING CLERK OF COMMISSION