

MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Piqua City Commission met at 6:00 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Lee called the meeting to order.

Roll Call as follows: Present: Mayor Lee, Commissioner Hinds, Commissioner Grissom, Commissioner Pearson and Commissioner Fogt.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the April 7, 2020 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

RES. NO. R-57-20

A Resolution authorizing preliminary consent legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Bridge Repairs on US Route 36

RES. NO. R-58-20

A Resolution reappointing a member to the Tree Committee

RES. NO. R-59-20

A Resolution reappointing a member to the Tree Committee

RES. NO. R-60-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Tree Committee

RES. NO. R-61-20

A Resolution reappointing a member to the Park Board

RES. NO. R-62-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RES. NO. R-63-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RES. NO. R-64-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RES. NO. R-65-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Planning Commission

Commissioner Hinds moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda; motion was seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was carried unanimously, and Mayor Lee declared the **Consent Agenda approved**

NEW BUSINESS

RES. NO. R-66-20

A Resolution to dedicate a portion of Scarbrough Drive Public Right-of-Way

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission.

Mayor Lee commented that it looks like a plan coming together.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt RES. NO. R-66-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-66-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-67-20

A Resolution authorizing the use of the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to purchase equipment for the Police Department

City Manager Huff presented information that the funds can only be used for the Police Department, but to be able to expend the funds from the trust fund it must be approved by the City Commission.

Rick Byron, Chief of Police presented the Staff Report along with the explanation that these funds are for an upgraded TI machine to assist with the use of force scenarios and de-escalation techniques.

City Manager Huff stated that the video is popular with the citizens academy as they get to simulate firings. It has been out of commission for a while and the hope is to get it back into the academy, but to be used primarily for training of our police officers.

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission.

Mayor Lee stated that this is a wonderful tool and inquired if it was still being utilized by Edison State Law Enforcement students.

Chief Byron stated that it is currently not operable but we will keep that option open to allow Edison to use it, as well as the government academy.

Commissioner Grissom asked for further explanation

Chief Byron explained that this machine offers realistic scenarios as to what you would see in the community and is highly interactive as far as body movement.

Commissioner Hinds stated this was kind of like a video game.

Commissioner Fogt inquired as to the integration into the training center at the old wastewater plant site, as far as putting the scenario into a live time motion.

City Manager Huff stated very much so.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt RES. NO. R-67-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-67-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-68-20

A Resolution requesting authorization to purchase the real property known as part of Inlot 36 and Inlot 37 in the amount of \$70,000

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Hinds commented on the necessity of a paved parking lot and letter of support from Lorna Swisher.

Mayor Lee stated that parking lot would be for public use, supplying 42 parking places – this parking lot is part of the Riverfront Redevelopment Project.

Commissioner Pearson inquired about entryway/exit.

Mr. Schmiesing confirmed the entry is off of Water Street, with no added expense of creating a curb cut. Mr. Schmiesing further commented that the planning documents provide information when the city is asked to expend money, it is not taken lightly when there is a monetary request to purchase properties.

Mayor Lee asked City Manager Huff if the City is “well-suited” at this point in time to spend the money.

City Manager Huff replied yes, the city would not be spending the money if we did not have the funding.

Law Director Patrizio commented on the difficulty of finding parking spaces for downtown businesses

Mayor Lee asked for confirmation that we had applied for a grant for this purchase

Mr. Schmiesing confirmed that that is the targeted dollar amount for the grant provided we move forward with the purchase.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearson to adopt RES. NO. R-68-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-68-20 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Lee explained the process being followed at this time. We have received two questions.

Natalie Jaqua, 1234 Marwood Drive – Will there be a formal budget revision in conjunction with the changing economic landscape? What is the prescribed response for budget revision/reallocations/etc.? Assuming revenues will decline, when would the finance department reflect these changes in the budget, acknowledging that known changes cannot yet be determined at this time?

City Manager Huff responded that a financial statement would be provided tonight that should answer these questions.

Bill Jaqua, 607 N. Sunset Drive states that businesses and significant portions of payroll providers of income to city revenue has vanished. State and Federal budgets are in severe shortage. This will result in revenue sharing shortages in Piqua. Many economists predict it could take 10 years to recover. I estimate that city revenue from income tax will drop to levels we saw in the Great Recession. This is probably a several million dollar decrease in city income tax. Should we stop non essential spending for a while?

City Manager Huff responded that non essential spending should be curtailed and has been done. The financial report will contain more information with regard to this spending.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saddened at the death of Darby Wright, city employee who had just been promoted to full time about a month ago. Tremendous loss to the city. Thoughts and prayers are extended to his entire family.

Working on a re-opening plan for the City, Gov. DeWine releasing requirements this week and we will abide by these requirements as the plan is developed. Expecting information by Friday.

Mayor Lee stated that we would let the citizens know as soon as possible.

City Manager Huff referred to Cynthia Holtzapple, Finance Director, to report on spending limits already implemented.

Ms. Holtzapple reported as follows: Since mid-March all departments have only been purchasing items and services critical to operation. Some capital purchases and many capital projects are being delayed. Non-essential summer/seasonal staff will not be hired and the pool will not be opened. Overtime substantially reduced and hiring is being reconsidered. All areas of budget are currently under review. Revenue spending monitored on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. When appropriate, budgets have been adjusted. Looking to offset reduced revenue and Covid-19 expenses through other funding and opportunities both local, state and federal.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER HINDS

Darby Wright recognition – amazing talented young man. Thoughts and prayers with his family

COMMISSIONER GRISSOM

Condolences and prayers to the family of Darby Wright. Resurfacing of streets amid the financial crisis

City Manager Huff responded that we are planning to go ahead with the contracted paving absent any unforeseen circumstances. We will know more after the voting on the street levy.

Commissioner Grissom promoted the passage of the street levy. We will keep a close eye on the city's financials.

National Lab Week – thanks to lab professionals

COMMISSIONER PEARSON

Condolences to Darby Wright family.

National Work Zone Awareness, be aware of the work projects going on within the city.

Congratulations to the Senior class of 2020 and the properties lit up in support of the graduates.

311 Draffhouse providing meals for those who are in need. Call or e-mail them and refer the the "Blessing Menu" of three items

COMMISSIONER FOGT

Thoughts and prayers to the family of Darby Wright. Thanks to city staff – working to stay on top of everything that is going on.
R-94-16 – Resolution (medical marijuana dispensaries) with regard to putting this conversation back on the table

MAYOR LEE

Condolences to Darby Wright family – prayers, blessings and the grace of God to the family
Trying to keep citizens informed by reporting questions. Information can be obtained on the City's website. Trying to deal with complaints to the best of his ability.
Appreciation of city employees
Remain diligent with regard to the Covid virus – support the Governor's requests. Appreciation to City of Piqua residents for abiding to the Governor's guidelines. Stay informed

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fogt to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 6:45 p.m. motion seconded by Commissioner Grissom, motion carried unanimously.



KRIS LEE, MAYOR

PASSED: 5/5/20

ATTEST: Karen S. Jenkins
KAREN S. JENKINS
CLERK OF COMMISSION