

MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 19, 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.

SPRING RESIDENCE PRIDE AWARDS:

Mayor Lee recognized the following property owners which have received the Spring Residence Pride Awards.

Karen Picker	1250 Park Avenue
Wauneta Bell	811 Vine Street
Terry & Billie Lewis	1036 Broadway Street
Christopher & Kaylee Swink	1114 Walker Street
David & Janie Hitchings	803 Camp Street

Mayor Lee expressed his congratulations and appreciation to the homeowners. City Manager Huff explained that the signs have been typically put up by now, but that it has been too wet to place the signs and we will get those up as soon as possible.

Commissioner Grissom noted that 4 of the properties are located in his ward and noted his appreciation to the property owners.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the May 5, 2020 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

RES. NO. R-73-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

RES. NO. R-74-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

RES. NO. R-75-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

RES. NO. R-76-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

RES. NO. R-77-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

RES. NO. R-78-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Income Tax Board of Review

RES. NO. R-79-20

A Resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

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

NEW BUSINESS

RES. NO. R-80-20

A Resolution of Intent to Vacate Public Right-Of-Way

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adopt RES. NO. R-80-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-80-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-81-20

A Resolution to dedicate a Bike Path Easement

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Commissioner Grissom asked for confirmation that this was not a dispute, just clearing up a discrepancy from the vacation of the alley.

Chris Schmiesing confirmed this to be the case.

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

Mayor Lee inquired as to when the development project for that area is supposed to be completed. Mr. Schmiesing stated that the completion is scheduled for between 9 to 12 months.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fogt to adopt RES. NO. R-81-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Grissom. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-81-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-82-20

A Resolution to authorize execution of a Quit Claim Deed over Inlot 9087

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt RES. NO. R-82-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-82-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-83-20

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the Program Year (PY) 2020 CHIP Program Partnership Agreement by and between the Miami County Board of Commissioners, The City of Piqua, The City of Tipp City, and the City of Troy for the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

City Manager Huff asked for confirmation that Miami County handles the programs for Troy and Tipp City

Mr. Schmiesing explained that Miami County is the overall administrator. However, this year Troy is going through a consultant to be administering their own program like the city of Piqua does

Mayor Lee asked for any questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adopt RES. NO. R-83-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-83-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-84-20

A Resolution authorizing the sale of City owned real estate

Chris Schmiesing, Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

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

Mayor Lee inquired if this person was the only person interested in the purchase of this property? Mr. Schmiesing replied there has been other interest, but this is the only one who followed up.

Commissioner Hinds noted that there were apartments above the property. Mr. Schmiesing confirmed and stated those are located on the Spring Street frontage, and they need updated and anticipates the new owner to do so.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearson to adopt RES. NO. R-84-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Grissom. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-84-20 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Lee explained the process being followed at this time. We have received one question/comment William Jaqua, 607 N. Sunset Drive – “Are we going to open our pool? If not, then fire the city manager immediately and hire one who can. We pay our city manager \$150,000 a year and if he can’t figure it out find someone who can.”

Mayor Lee stated that it has already been decided that the city is not going to open the pool. We did not spend the \$230,000 to \$260,000 to repair the pool only to get RFQs back and say we decided to go in a different direction. We had to cut 2.5 million dollars out of the budget and at this point that money is spoken for. Mayor Lee then inquired of Mr. Huff if we have received the RFQs back for the pool.

City Manager Huff replied that yes we have and the next step is in early June to go before the Park Board.

Mayor Lee stated that the next step after the Park Board will be a citizen's advisory group for the pool and once we get the Park Board recommendations as to who to go with, then we will enact the citizen's advisory group and start getting citizen input on what we are going to do with the pool. It is a shame that we can't open our pool but in light of the Governor's recommendation and all the restrictions that would go into effect... how many other places are not opening pools

City Manager Huff replied we had a survey all of the cities around the Dayton area and at this point outdoor pools not opening include Kettering, Miamisburg, Springfield, Dayton, Franklin, Vandalia, and Sidney. We are waiting to see what Troy and Tipp City are going to do as they have not made a decision yet.

Mayor Lee again confirmed that we are not going to open the pool at this point in time, but something will be done with the pool and the citizens will have a lot of input in what will happen with the pool.

Mayor Lee also commented that he has confidence in the city manager and does not intend on firing him and that City Manager Huff has Mayor Lee's support.

Commissioner Fogt commented that the City Manager had oversight; however, the city commission made the decision with regard to the pool and expressed his appreciation to City Manager Huff for his support of the commission.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Huff asked Chris Schmiesing to report what some of our businesses have been doing related to the covid virus.

Mr. Schmiesing reported as follows:

Evenflo – Manufacture of plexiglass face shields

Isaiah industries - Manufacture of metal nose strips for face masks

Queen exhibits - Addition of a social distancing product line

Atlantis sportswear – Production of cloth protective face masks

Infinity fasteners - Made available N95 and face masks that they had available

Industry products - Partnered with Fast Lane and Premier Health to create PPE medical gowns

Quint Custom signs – Creation of plexiglass shields

Industries are “ramping back up”

IDC Spring expansion project – update - project getting close to completion – this project allowed us to leverage their investment to be able to put into place the Scarborough Drive expansion project. Just got bids back – Milligan Construction should be out there moving dirt in the next week or two.

Former Takata Building developments – Owner (Benzar Properties) purchasing additional 8 acres for a 112,000 sq. ft. spec building which was recently approved by the Planning Commission. – 4.5 million dollar investment.

Hobart Service – willingness to be cooperative in allowing for a sewer line across their property to enable sanitary sewer connection for the Takata building improvement.

City Manager Huff commented on positive comments and our relationship with incoming businesses

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER HINDS – exciting to hear Chris’s report. Congratulations to 2020 graduates.

COMMISSIONER GRISSOM – congratulations to new board members. Decision on pool was what had to be made – excited to see what is finally decided with regard to the pool. Support our small/local businesses.

COMMISSIONER PEARSON – congrats to residence pride award winners, U.S. Census Bureau job opportunities, with regard to these difficult times, Piqua should be proud of their ability to “rise above”.

City Manager Huff stated with regard to the U.S. Census that the latest return rate was about 65%. It needs to be more, encouragement of residents to do the automated on line application – extremely important to get those numbers up as it affects the amount of money the community and state receives over the next ten years.

COMMISSIONER FOGT - citizens taking lunch at the park and encouragement of citizens to get out and enjoy the parks. Watch speed limits going through town as there are a lot of children outdoors. Congratulations to the class of 2020.

MAYOR LEE – Congratulations of the 50th wedding anniversary of Commissioner Pearson. Congratulations to Residence Pride Award winners. Congratulations to all board appointments. Cruising in the city –Ordinance affects just the downtown area. Important to keep downtown area open for service vehicles. No interest in changing the ordinance. If you want to cruise, go out to the mall. Hannah’s Bistro – spoke to owner Tommy McCoy – looking forward to coming back to Piqua with his southern cuisine, located in the mall area. Congratulations to all 2020 graduates, Piqua as well as Lehman.

Question to Gary Huff with regard to software for utilities.

City Manager Huff – still continuing to encourage the working between the meter software and the financial software. Refer to Cindy Holtzapple for a more informative answer.

Cindy Holtzapple – in contact as recently as last Friday to set up a meeting for interfacing and timeline to implement. Looking at about 6 months. Proposal will be presented as soon as it is available. We are in the process of trying to get something intermittent in the meantime.

Mayor Lee inquired as to where we are with regard to language for home pools fill up.

City Manager Huff replied that application is on the UBO website

Commissioner Grissom inquired as to the timeline to open up the Commission meeting to the public.

City Manager Huff stated there is no indication whatsoever. We watch for changes to restrictions every day.

Commissioner Vogt asked about the possibility of open air commission meetings.

City Manager Huff stated that there would be no way to know how many people would show up with regard the the mass gatherings restrictions.


Mayor Lee stated that we would like to hear from the citizens via electronic, phone etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fogt to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 6:52 p.m. motion seconded by Commissioner Fogt, motion carried unanimously.


KRIS LEE, MAYOR

PASSED: 6/2/20

ATTEST: 
KAREN S. JENKINS
CLERK OF COMMISSION