

MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 16, 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 June 2, 2020 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

Commissioner Hinds 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

ORD. NO. 7-20 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance to vacate a portion of public alley right-of-way

This is the first reading -Chris Schmiesing, Community and Economic Development Director presented the Staff Report.

Chris Schmiesing asked for waiver of the three reading rule.

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

Commissioner Grissom stated that he was fine with the waiving of the three reading rule.

Commissioner Hinds stated that the property looks really good.

Commissioner Fogt offered thanks to the city staff for cleaning up that area.

Motion to waive the three reading rule was made by Commissioner Grissom, seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously and Mayor Lee declared the three reading rule waived.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fogt to adopt ORD. NO. 7-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Roll was called and the motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Mayor Lee declared ORD. NO. 7-20 adopted.

RES. NO. R-87-20

A Resolution requesting authorization to accept a sanitary sewer easement on the property located at 8515 Industry Park Drive

Chris Schmiesing, Community and 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 Pearson to adopt RES. NO. R-87-20, motion seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES. NO. R-87-20 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Lee explained the process being followed at this time. We have received no questions/comments

Mayor Lee announced the retirement of City Manager Gary Huff and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Huff's services to the City. Mayor Lee then announced that Cynthia Holtzapple, Assistant City Manager would be presenting the City Manager's report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Holtzapple announced that Amy Welker, the Health Director would be presenting a public health update.

Amy Welker presented a report with regard to racism being proclaimed as a public health crisis and public health concern. Ms. Welker then spoke about health equity, providing statistics with regard to health outcomes due to different races, income levels, and availability of health care. Based on information obtained from research from the Health Institute of Ohio it has been determined that racism is definitely at play with regard to health outcomes. In trying to make a determination of how this is

affecting our community, it is difficult to make predictions with regard to the City of Piqua due to the lack of data, that data sets need to be reviewed and created through the process of the community health assessment.

Ms. Welker then stated that when a community looks at the issue of racism there could be a Diversity Committee reinvigoration. Ms. Welker then noted the uniqueness of Mayor Lee being an African American and previous law enforcement officer for the City of Piqua, that Piqua is well situated to be a leader in moving forward to continue the racism dialogue.

Mayor Lee commented on the Diversity Committee, expressing an interest in Ms. Welker being an advisor. Mayor Lee then made a recommendation to present a resolution to the Commission declaring racism a health crisis.

Commissioner Hinds stated that the YWCA is having a 21 day racism challenge – trying to get a perspective of what it means to be of an alternate race than white. Commissioner Hinds then stated that she is thankful for Mayor Lee and what he “brings to the table”.

Commissioner Fogt stated that we need substantial data, and asked if there are metrics that could be put into place now for community data and if we could possibly work with the Head Start program to establish data.

Amy Welker stated that we need community partners and need to hear from agencies such as the YWCA and Headstart.

Mayor Lee commented that he will be working with the city manager and law director in bringing back the Community Diversity Program. He would like to add more members, change its focus and partner with Amy Welker to reach out to the community to collect data. A resolution will be prepared for the next Commission meeting. Mayor Lee shared some of his experiences as an African American male as far as educating his children on behavior and police treatment of African American males, stating that his son has just experienced an issue with regard to how he was treated by a law enforcement officer in Wapakoneta and that he (Mayor Lee) had moved to Dayton for a time but moved back to Piqua as he thought it was definitely safer.

Commissioner Hinds commented that we need to make sure we include all ethnicities, races and genders with regard to diversity programs.

Mayor Lee stated that UVMC, UVCC and Edison have a great diversity program and that we need to network with those entities. We need to show a strong presence in the community.

Mayor Lee inquired about utility billing as far as the flat rate v. the prorated fee

Cynthia Holtzapple responded that there is currently a study with regard to that issue and hopes to report back to the Commission by the end of the month.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER FOGT

Commissioner Fogt commented on the trash pickup vehicles causing damage to the alleys and inquired if the City knew what percentage of money in the annual budget was used for the repaving of these alleys city wide, that this is a study that needs to be done.

Health Director Amy Welker stated that the City is looking into this issue.

Mayor Lee commented that the trash would be picked up in the front at some point in time.

Ms. Welker stated that the city would always have some alley trash pickup but that alleys that need to be backed into will be looked at to move to the street. The trash in these alleys will need to be picked up by the old trash trucks, not the rear-loader trucks. Mayor Lee inquired as to when the trash pickup process would be fully automated. Ms. Welker stated that the City needs to convert the building and then convert the trucks.

Commissioner Fogt commented that he was looking forward to hearing from the Medical Board at the meeting on medical marijuana to be held June 17th. The public will be able to view the meeting but not participate.

COMMISSIONER PEARSON

Commissioner Pearson commented on the 2020 Dayton Region Walk of Fame Induction, that there was an outstanding list of inductees which includes William Pitsenbarger.

COMMISSIONER GRISSOM

Commissioner Grissom inquired about the possibility of 4th of July activities.

Cynthia Holtzapple, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director stated that there are still restrictions with regard to mass gatherings.

Mayor Lee inquired about the possibility of having some type of event in spite of the mandate. Law Director Patrizio replied that the City would need to follow the laws of the state of Ohio.

Commissioner Grissom stated that he was appreciative of the citizens' surveys responses and that there is currently a survey with regard to the 4th of July.

COMMISSIONER HINDS

Commissioner Hinds thanked Ms. Welker for the presentation stating that the report will be helpful.

Commissioner Hinds then stated that City Manager Huff has tendered his resignation but will be here until December, that he has been a fabulous City Manager, being ethical and professional and that she is very thankful to Mr. Huff for his city vision further stating that Mr. Huff has much respect from his fellow co-workers and staff. Commissioner Hinds then stated that she felt Mr. Huff is leaving some shoes that will be tough to fill and that she would like to wish Mr. Huff enjoyment in his retirement and enjoyment of time to spend with family and grandchildren

MAYOR LEE

Mayor Lee asked Brian Brookhart, Assistant Street Superintendent to provide an update with regard to the pool and to address the rumor that the pool was left in disrepair and that it froze over.

Mayor Lee inquired when the designer would give us options for advisement to the committee

Mr. Brookhart stated that the pool needs an assessment and feasibility study to determine whether to revitalize or build a new pool. Mr. Brookhart then presented the following update with regard to the RFQs for the city pool repair/improvements.

There are currently three companies: MSA Sport, Brand Stetter Carroll, Inc. and CHA Design Construction Solutions providing proposals.

The Park Board has reviewed the submittals and conducted interviews last week. The Park Board will complete the evaluation forms on each firm. Based on the Park Board's recommendations, the City will request a contract to perform the study from the recommended firm and then it will be come before the Commissioner for approval to award the contract to begin the study. Mr. Brookhart is very confident in all three companies, but one in particular has "stuck out". The companies were very impressed with the condition of the pool with regard to the age of the pool.

To put to rest the rumor...the pool was winterized properly and did not freeze over and the pool could have been opened "as is" if not for the Covid virus. There is maintenance of the water currently in the pool. A pump is kept running.

One question that was asked all three firms was how they were going to engage the community on getting feedback from the kids and parents using the pool? What activities would they like offered? They all have exceptional plans with regard to questionnaires asking basic questions. All three firms have done this multiple times.

Mayor Lee stated that he would like to address the rumor that the City of Piqua is bankrupt.

Cynthia Holtzapple, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director responded that no, the City of Piqua is not bankrupt, city budgets and daily projections are being watched very closely.

Mayor Lee then expressed his appreciation for all the work that was done in cutting the budget and reviewing the daily financial needs of the City.

Mayor Lee then proceeded to issue the Proclamation with regard to June 19, 1865 being the day when Union Soldiers arrived in Texas and spread the word that President Lincoln had delivered his Emancipation Proclamation declaring "That all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free." proclaiming June 19, 2020 **JUNETEENTH DAY** for the City of Piqua as being a day of formal celebration for all African Americans to celebrate their freedom, culture and achievements and a day of formal celebration for all Americans to celebrate African American history and rejoice in their freedom.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider pending or imminent litigation

To prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel

Commissioner Grissom moved to go into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Fogt. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from the Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Pearson, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:47 p.m. motion seconded by Commissioner Pearson, motion carried unanimously.



KRIS LEE, MAYOR

PASSED: 7/7/20

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