

MINUTES
REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
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. The meeting was broadcast via Zoom and Piqua's YouTube channel. Mayor Lee called the meeting to order.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the May 4, 2021 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

Commissioner Hinds moved for approval of the Consent Agenda; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared the Consent Agenda approved.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-92-20

A RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DIVERSITY AND ADOPTING THE COMMITTEE'S MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mayor Lee requested Resolution R-92-20 that was tabled July 7, 2020 be taken off the table so that it can be looked at and voted on next session.

Commissioner Hinds moved that Resolution No. R-92-20 be taken off the table, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grissom. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared Resolution No. R-92-20 taken off the table.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-21

A RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF LOONEY ROAD AND E. ASH STREET AS PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Chris Schmiesing, Community and Economic Development Director presented the staff report.

Commissioner Grissom asked about the vote from the Planning Commission. Mr. Schmiesing replied that it was a unanimous vote.

Mayor Lee stated that he is glad to see a new business starting up in town, and Commissioner Hinds noted that it will have a drive through as well.

There were no further questions or comments with regard to this resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearson to adopt RES NO. R-45-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-45-21 adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. R-46-21

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE OVERLOOK BEHIND THE FORMER PIQUA POWER PLANT "JOHN GALLAGHER PARK"

Kyrsten French, City Planner presented the staff report.

Commissioner Fogt stated that due to citizen concern and the need for further review of city specifications, he is requesting that Resolution No. R-46-21 be tabled.

Ms. French stated that the policy was repealed in 2015.

Commissioner Hinds noted that more research needed to be done to get some clarification and talked about naming it an "overlook" compared to a "park" which puts it into a different category.

Ms. French referred to Resolution R- 72-15 which is the resolution repealing the prior legislation.

Commissioner Fogt asked if Ms. French could forward her documentation to the Commissioners. Commissioner Hinds requested the original policy along with the one that was repealed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fogt to table RES NO. R-46-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously, Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-46-21 tabled.

Mayor Lee asked Law Director Patrizio to look into this and report back to the commission how the reformation of the Diversity Committee would affect this project.

Law Director Patrizio stated that if the policy has been repealed that it may not have any effect. He will look into it.

Commissioner Grissom asked if there is any time-line that would affect the kiosk itself.

Ms. French stated there is no official time-line but that she was hoping for installation this month since it is "Bike Month"

Commissioner Grissom asked if the kiosk could be installed with a "temporary name" or something of that nature?

Ms. French said she would ask the manufacturer

Commissioner Grissom stated it was nice for the donation, it looks really nice and he hates to hold that up but we need to go through the process to make sure it is named appropriately.

At this time Mayor Lee stated he wanted to give the citizens an opportunity to speak on this topic.

Larry Hamilton commented that it was news to him that Resolution No. R-110-07 – "A Resolution Recognizing Diversity in the City of Piqua" had been repealed.

Commissioner Hinds stated that the kiosk is part of a riverway branding project and is a great way to advertise downtown businesses and amenities in the area to the persons utilizing the bike path.

Mayor Lee stated the naming should not affect the branding of the kiosk.

There were no further questions or comments with regard to this resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. R-47-21

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO OUTDOOR ENTERPRISE FOR THE WATER AND MAIN PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Chris Schmiesing, Community and Economic Development Director presented the staff report

Commissioner Fogt asked about the parking for the Lighthouse Café- is there a contingency plan for that traffic?

Mr. Schmiesing stated that the city is fully aware of the situation and will work with the contractor to minimize the inconvenience to customers to the café. However, there will be some inconvenience for a month or so. The auxiliary parking would be the downtown square area and/or canal place.

Commissioner Grissom commented on the amount budgeted being \$168,000 to cover the whole cost if needed, but due to obtaining grant funds, the city's out of pocket was only \$60,000. He commended Mr. Schmiesing on his efforts for achieving those funds.

There were no further questions or comments with regard to this resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fogt to adopt RES NO. R-47-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-47-21 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ruth Koon stated that she has signatures of 23 homeowners on Park Avenue between Sunset Drive and Washington Avenue to petition the city to post signs restricting large truck traffic from using the residential street between Sunset Drive and Washington Avenue.

After a conversation regarding the number of trucks using Park Avenue per day, the speed of the trucks, the installation and effectiveness of signs, compliance issues, and errors and updates to GPS mapping programs, City Manager Oberdorfer stated that he would like the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Koon and the city engineer to see if a plan can be put together to deal with this situation and that he would be looking into this issue within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Hinds and Mr. Schmiesing discussed how Plan It Piqua was involved in the re-routing of 185, which was prompted by citizens and that the city is looking at creating a set of truck routes.

Mr. Schmiesing discussed GPA reporting and mapping issues.

Larry Hamilton stated he was following up from the last meeting with regard to the issue of racism and what the city's efforts are. He also mentioned an article in the Catholic Telegraph, Black History Edition that he found interesting and that it is important to study history with regard to our understanding of how we should be engaging one another. Mr. Hamilton stated he is hopeful that we can encourage persons who are in a position of religious leadership to work collaboratively with each other in terms of finding solutions to problems relating to race and racism within our society. He is willing to work with community leaders.

Mayor Lee asked Mr. Hamilton if he had approached anyone in our religious community as well. Mr. Hamilton said he had been speaking with people on an individual basis and people who represent leadership of organizations.

Mayor Lee asked specifically about the two Catholic churches in Piqua to which Mr. Hamilton responded he will be sharing his information with regard to his research on Father Purcell.

Chad Lawson spoke about the possibility of medical marijuana cultivating and processing. He will continue collecting data to show opportunities for Piqua.

Commissioner Grissom stated that he appreciated Mr. Lawson's looking into this issue and he would like to see more data.

Commissioner Fogt stated that this could mean forward progress for the city to bring jobs to the community but to make sure it is a good fit.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Oberdorfer asked that Kenton Kiser, Engineering Technician provide information with regard to Pavement Preservation. At this time Mr. Kiser presented a very informative Power Point presentation on pavement preservation.

Mayor Lee stated that there would be less done for the roads that need the minor resurfacing/repair according to projections, but a lot more of the other ones to preserve/fix them for a longer period of time – in essence doing more work in keeping most of the roads preserved and the major ones over time.

Mr. Kiser replied that the idea is to not let the good roads sit and deteriorate to poor quality but is to use these cost effective treatments to keep them in that good state while also using resurfacing to repair the poor quality streets until eventually there will not need to be too much resurfacing.

Commissioner Grissom commented that he received lots of citizen comments about the condition of the streets and that it is nice to have things being done that the citizens can see that the city is putting their tax levy money to good work on the streets. He stated this is smart and makes sense. Even though it will take a few years to get everything in place, it is a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Fogt asked about the asphalt and concrete comparison with regard to heavy traffic roads, possibly looking at a concrete v. asphalt program in the future.

City Engineer Amy Havenar stated that concrete is not an option for federal funding. Concrete is durable but it is very expensive going in and it is noisy and a lot of the federal funds will not cover concrete just because of the up-front cost.

Commissioner Grissom stated to City Manager Oberdorfer that he took it this was Paul's idea.

Mayor Lee stated this was a great idea.

City Manager Oberdorfer stated that we have a good team. Once we introduce PAVER, right now we are in the process, we have an RFP out on the market trying to get the data to have a company come in and collect our new pavement condition data, once we have that and use PAVER to do the forecasting model I think you will find that we are woefully underfunded in our paving. While that is problematic, it also allows us to look at alternative methods that maybe haven't been considered in the past, like even a chip seal with a fog which is basically a chip seal and then you put a layer on top of it, it ends up looking like asphalt but is not considered to be an urban pavement treatment, but it is very cost effective and self-healing. Those are the kinds of things that fit within our affordability range. From past experience, once we get the PAVER software in place the city is probably looking at 3 to 5 million dollars over a couple of years to start to get us where we need to be. There would need to be a substantial investment to get the community up to a 70 PCI rating. However, 60-65 PCI rating is fine and this is what PAVER will allow us to obtain. The city will be doing forecasting to inform the public and commission of the forward progress. It is a slow process but we have a young and talented workforce that will take care of this.

City Manager Oberdorfer also provided information with regard to the recent COVID-19 press release and Governors Executive orders to take effect June 2nd, stating that the City of Piqua will update their policies for city facilities to reflect these new CDC guidelines. Beginning May 19th citizens will be able to reserve the Fountain Park dining hall and the Mote Park Community center for rental activities that will commence on July 5, 2021 and beyond, call the city parks department to start those reservations right away. Beginning June 19th after all health order are rescinded, the city building will be fully open to the public with recommendations that all unvaccinated individuals wear masks and socially distance from others. June 2nd after all health orders are rescinded, city public meetings will be open to the public at full capacity All unvaccinated individuals are cautioned regarding attendance at large gatherings where social distancing may not be possible. We are headed back toward a state of normalcy

Mayor Lee asked for an update on the COVID relief funds.

City Manager Oberdorfer stated that the COVID funds have been pushed out about 10 weeks so it will be the end of August before we have funds available. The City will obtain legal advice as to how the funds may be spent.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT

Commissioner Fogt requested citizens to be vigilant and to not blow cut grass out onto the streets, this grass causes issues at the water treatment plant since the grass needs to be extracted out of the water. Be kind to neighbors and be aware of litter, maybe pick it up and throw it away. Help keep Piqua clean.

Commissioner Pearson stated that the Town Hall meeting is this Thursday

Commissioner Grissom mentioned the June 12th voter drive sponsored by Jey Roman. He also offered prayers to family members suffering from COVID.

Commissioner Hinds offered congratulations to this year's graduates, Memorial Day weekend is coming up, along with the Sam Pearson run/walk event – get out and get active. The City is still in need of vendors for the 4th of July event, the farmer's market will be returning with some changes, including food trucks and music.

Mayor Lee offered congratulations to the graduates, and commented on Piqua's musical. He also asked citizens to come to the Town Hall on Thursday, and that there will be a soft opening at the Randolph Center this weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. To consider confidential information related to economic development as further defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) or as amended.

Commissioner Fogt moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Pearson. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adjourn from the Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion carried unanimously. The Executive Session was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 8:27 p.m. p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Commission meeting was adjourned.


KRIS LEE, MAYOR

PASSED: June 1, 2021

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