

**MINUTES
REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
6:00 PM**

Piqua City Commission met at 6:00 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION OF THE JAN MULDER AWARD

Jan Mulder was a police officer killed in the line of duty and following his death the Chamber of Commerce established the award in his memory. Kathy Sherman, President of the Chamber of Commerce presented Amber Ike with the Jan Mulder Award for her actions in resuscitating another Planet Fitness customer with CPR and a defibrillator, saving his life.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the August 17, 2021 Regular Piqua City Commission Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. R-76-21

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ROBERT JENNINGS AS A CITY EMPLOYEE

Mayor Lee presented Mr. Jennings with his Resolution of Appreciation.

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

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-3-21 (Second Reading)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CHAPTER 33.03 AND ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 33.03 OF THE PIQUA CODE, RELATING TO EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS

Catherine M. Bogan, Human Resources Director presented the staff report.

Mayor Lee asked if there were any questions from the commissioners and if there was a reason to have a third reading of the Ordinance. Ms. Bogan asked if the Commission would consider waiving the third reading. Mayor Lee stated that it was a federal holiday already.

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

Commissioner Grissom confirmed that the Ordinance would not go into effect until next year.

There were no questions or comments from the citizens.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fogt to adopt Ordinance O-3-21. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared Ordinance O-3-21 adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-4-21 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 32.08 OF THE PIQUA CODE, RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A UTILITY BOARD

Amy Welker, Director of Health and Sanitation presented the staff report.

Commissioner Fogt inquired if it would be possible to have two commissioners on the board instead of only one in the event one of them is not available to attend the meeting.

Ms. Welker stated that the change could be made for the second reading.

Mayor Lee stated that he likes the idea of two commissioners and also likes the idea of transparency, mentioning the current inability to see rate changes, etc. online and volunteers would be part of the solution and help the city.

Commissioner Hinds stated she agrees it would be wonderful to have citizen input and involvement.

Commissioner Grissom inquired why this board would be a separate board from the Energy Board.

Ms. Welker replied that the feedback received from the power system was that the Energy Board was such an established board with specialized knowledge for board members. The Utility Board would not be quite as complicated as the Energy Board and would provide an opportunity for citizens that may not have specialized knowledge in that area.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Ordinance will move to the 2nd reading.

RESOLUTION NO. R-28-21 (AMENDED)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS TO DISPOSAL AT CHEROKEE RUN LANDFILL IN BELLEFONTAINE (REPUBLIC SERVICES)

Kevin Krejny, Director of Utilities presented the staff report

Mayor Lee inquired about the increase in cost. Mr. Krejny stated that the city did not press for 7 months last year when the new plant went online and had to get caught up from that 7 month period, the 5 months from last year, plus the full year for this year and in January there was not enough money allocated resulting in the increased budget amount.

Steven Smitley inquired why we are going all the way to Bellefontaine. Mr. Krejny stated Bellefontaine is one of the closest disposal areas available.

There were no further questions or comments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt AMENDED RES NO. R-28-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Roll was called with a vote of 5-0. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared AMENDED RES NO. R-28-21 adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. R-77-21

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TAX RATES FOR THE CITY AS DETERMINED BY THE MIAMI COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

Benjamin Goodin, Acting Finance Director presented the staff report

Mayor Lee inquired if there were any increases in the numbers. Mr. Goodin stated the percentage did not increase at all, the projected revenue did increase a little based on property valuations.

There were no further questions or comments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adopt RES NO. R-77-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-77-21 adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. R-78-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO BEST EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ASL REFUSE TRUCKS

Amy Welker, Director of Health & Sanitation presented the staff report

The discussion included the importance of the education and notification of the citizens about the switchover of the trucks, the age of the current vehicles being from the year 2013 up to 2018 with the oldest vehicles being replaced by the side loaders. The size of the new trucks being bigger than the current vehicles and the ability to still run rear loader trucks for those areas that need alley access. These trucks are hard to find and we are not settling as these trucks are definitely high on the list as being very good trucks and that the surrounding counties have the same trucks. These will be brand new trucks coming off the line in November with warranties. Secure options for parking/storage utilized by sharing buildings with other vehicles. These trucks are safer vehicles with lower overhead expenses. Money will be received from the sale of the older trucks, and that side loader trucks have a longer life expectancy than the rear loader trucks with the necessary preventive maintenance. The load capacity being more than the rear loader trucks meaning less trips to the transfer station and these trucks will be utilized for both trash and recycling purposes.

There were no further questions or comments from the citizens.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt RES NO. R-78-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-78-21 adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. R-79-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO BEST EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2021 LOAD ASSIST GRAPPLE TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brian Brookhart, Public Works Director presented the staff report

The discussion included that the city has already started the process of down-sizing equipment. The trucks will be larger, but still have the capability to make it up and down streets as narrow as 11'. Easier to pick up bulk items with a better opportunity to dispose of larger items. Due to the trucks being stored in a shared facility, it will make it easier to share the vehicles and present an opportunity to cross train employees, as well as advancement opportunities.

There were no further questions or comments from the citizens.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to adopt RES NO. R-79-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-79-21 adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. R-80-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO PALMER TRUCK KENWORTH OF DAYTON FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 KENWORTH T280 PLOW TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brian Brookhart, Public Works Director presented the staff report

Mayor Lee inquired about the number of trucks the city has now and what trucks are part of the transition.

Mr. Brookhart stated there are 7 reliable trucks used on a regular basis that are part of the transition and it is hoped by next year to have all the older trucks transitioned out of the fleet with the oldest truck being a 2005 model. The intent is to replace the newer vehicles every seven years upon expiration of the warranty, selling them to receive a decent price to apply toward replacement of the vehicle(s).

Commissioner Fogt inquired if these trucks have the same technology with regard to the efficiency of the salt spreaders to which Mr. Brookhart confirmed the technology in the trucks is tremendous and there has been a cost savings seen from having just three of these trucks. Once the entire fleet is switched over there will be a huge cost savings in yearly salt purchases. Knowledge of the amount of lanes per mile of salt being put down makes a big difference.

There were no questions or comments from the citizens.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearson to adopt RES NO. R-80-21; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fogt. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared RES NO. R-80-21 adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(This is an opportunity for citizens to address the City Commission regarding agenda items, issues, or to provide information. Comments are requested to be limited to five (5) minutes and specific questions should be addressed to the City Manager's office.)

Tonya Blair stated she heard a rumor about the possibility of point of sale inspections for sales and/or rentals and wanted to know if this was something the city was going to be adopting.

City Manager Oberdorfer responded to Ms. Blair. He explained that the city was looking into setting up a rental inspection program which would be either annual or bi-annual, we are still working through the details, stating this was an inspection program to protect the tenants in having the City be able to enter the premises and go through all the systems to check for structural integrity and things of that nature, which is more comprehensive than just the current maintenance code which deals with the outside of the structure. The city will be providing more information about this in the fall. He stated he would be happy to meet with Ms. Blair to discuss the situation.

Ms. Blair stated she would like to send Mr. Oberdorfer a 55 page report prepared by Ohio realtors that states that the realtors do not believe this is a good thing. Mr. Oberdorfer clarified that this is not a point of sale inspection.

Mayor Lee stated he would like Ms. Blair's input and to make sure she contacted Mr. Oberdorfer.

Steven Smitley – Mr. Smitley spoke to encourage the denial of the DORA when it comes up for the vote. He believes alcohol consumption in the community would increase and be detrimental to the community and families with children. Mr. Smitley stated he has information from a study with regard to DORAs. He did not have a hard copy of the study.

Mayor Lee asked Mr. Smitley to please e-mail him the title of the study, that it would be looked up and reviewed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Oberdorfer asked Brian Brookhart to do a presentation on pavement maintenance and preservation that the city will be implementing.

Mr. Brookhart presented a video of the chip and seal and fog seal processes and explained the benefits of these process to aid in the preservation of roadways.

Mr. Oberdorfer then offered the following comments/information with regard to Mr. Brookhart's presentation:

This is an opportunity to utilize taxpayer dollars to repair more streets than would normally be possible with the mill and fill program. Condition of the streets and overall service length that we will get out of the streets will be greatly improved. The PAVER system will be forecasting the condition of roadways, alleys and the bike paths. Having projects like this and looking at alternatives will allow the city to provide pavement repair to more residents. The product itself is self-healing in that unlike asphalt, which gets brittle over time, the chip seal will heat up and when driven over will actually heal any cracks.

Mr. Brookhart mentioned the benefits of the recently purchased Durapatcher to help maintain the process.

Mr. Oberdorfer then provided an update with regard to the increase in Interim Net Income Tax Collection and the Commodities market effect on the increased amounts collected, that the City is working on alternative ways to provide services to the citizens at a reduced cost vs. the inability to deliver the service. City staff will continue to work on efficient oriented and cost savings projects.

Mr. Oberdorfer then offered his thanks to Bob Jennings for 32½ years of service to the city and commented on the quality of the water under Bob's supervision. He then acknowledged HR and Kevin Krejny in their recruitment efforts to fill at least one of Bob's shoes.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Fogt commented on the following:

Forum for Town Hall meetings, citizens would like to have more of them. Possible restructuring of the meetings to one business meeting and one town hall per month.

Utility Board – this board is huge for the City of Piqua residents as it will give the citizens more of a voice and ability to give the commissioners more of an insight to make better informed decisions with regard to the effect of decisions on the citizens.

Warren Davidson, extend an invitation to Mr. Davidson to contact the commissioners next time he is in town to talk about the impact DC could provide for Piqua.

State Route 66 pavement failure. Working on plans to get that fixed in the future.

Mr. Oberdorfer stated that ODOT has included this project in the scope of work scheduled for next year.

Trash in the alleys, receipt of an e-mail complaint. The alleys look like trash dumpsters. Please call into Health and Sanitation to make complaints. Citizens should call the city to have bulk items picked up.

American Freight is open for business.

Hardees – ground breaking has started.

Starbucks – has started the building process. Fence is up surrounding their building lot.

Shout out to the Development Department for their efforts in bringing new businesses to the area.

Property cleanup – neighbors please help other neighbors with clean-up of property if overgrown by weeds. A little help goes a long way in our town.

Bob Jennings – congratulation for service of 32 years.

Piqua Government Academy – begins September 13. He is looking forward to hearing comments from the academy attendees at the end.

Congratulations to the Piqua Indians in their victory over Troy.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and city workers for getting the honor flags installed and replaced.

Commissioner Pearson commented on the following:

Downtown Piqua calendar of events:

9/18 - Taste of Piqua from noon to 10:00 p.m.

10/8 - Chocolate Walk from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Town Halls – September 23 and October 14 each to begin at 6:00 p.m. with attendance from the Commissioners and the City Manager.

Commissioner Hinds commented on the following:

Water Plant transition and congratulations to Bob Jennings retirement and subsequent position of being a bus driver for the Piqua City schools and giving back to the community.

Halloween is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

911 anniversary on Saturday. The Never Forget Exhibit at the Miami County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 10th through the 11th starting at 1:00 p.m.

School has started – please be aware and watch for the school busses and children on their way to school.

Commissioner Grissom commented on the following:

Congratulation to Bob Jennings for his years of service

DORA – will be taking effect soon, comments and feedback from the citizens would be appreciated during this trial period. Bring your thoughts and opinions to the commission.

Mayor Lee commented on the following:

Bob Jennings – Thank you for 32 ½ years of dedicated service to the city. Mayor Lee mentioned he has a cup with Bob's name on it that he uses to drink tap water because of the upgraded water quality under Bob's management. Prior to Bob, he had filters on his water. He stated that Bob had a lot to do with the fact that our water is some of the best in the state.

Saturday night being very wet and Commissioner Hind's son's picture on the front page of the newspaper, being drenched, but still having a big smile on his face.

Piqua Indians victory over Troy. Bet with Mayor of Troy that winner of game would wear opposing teams' t-shirt. Mayor Lee will have a shirt made for the Troy Mayor and will post the picture online and in the newspaper. Keep supporting the Indians.

Taste of Piqua coming up

Utility Board – Looking forward to citizen involvement

Diversity Committee – still need applications

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearson to adjourn from the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grissom. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Commission meeting was adjourned.



KRIS LEE, MAYOR

PASSED: 9/21/21

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