

**PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lee and Commissioners DeBrosse, Hohman, Simmons and Vetter were present.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Caldwell Historic District – Don Smith gave a presentation announcing that the Caldwell Historic District was Nationally recognized February 5, 1985 by the National Park and Department of Interior. They have formed a 501C3 and their mission is to increase awareness of the historic district.

Don Smith also gave an update on tours of Piqua he is leading. Main Street Piqua and the Miami County Visitors Bureau are supporting the tours in an effort to bring people to Piqua. There is a tour for hosts Monday, March 11th and he's hoping they will bring a bus full of people back to take one of the tours of our city.

PRESENTATION

Jan Mulder Award – Kathy Sherman awarded Lieutenant Marco Rodriguez and Lieutenant Randy Giesseman with the Jan Mulder award. Kathy gave the history of how the Jan Mulder award got started. Jan Mulder was on duty as a Piqua Police officer when he was shot on August 11, 1970 responding to a suspicious male at the Ft. Piqua Hotel. Before he died, Officer Mulder was able to fire a shot at his assailant. His memory lives on through this award. Lt. Rodriguez saved the life of an elderly man who was choking in Bob Evans on November 3, 2023 by providing the Heimlich maneuver. He was recommended by Deputy Chief Thomas. Lt. Giesseman carried a child to safety on May 14, 1979 knowing there was a shooter in the house. He was recommended by former Deputy Chief Thomas Higgins.

PRESENTATION

Utilities Department Update – Kevin Krejny gave an update on the utilities department which is made up of Water, Wastewater and Stormwater. He went over the financials, projects and projections for each of these divisions.

PRESENTAION

The Miami Conservancy District – MaryLynn Lodor said that the Miami County Conservatory District is responsible for flood protection. She said they are partnering with Piqua for the Lock 9 project, and it is nice to see so much investment all along the riverway. MaryLynn announced that Piqua will be hosting the Miami County Riverway Summit in April. The MCCD is trying to be more proactive, and they are trying to get additional funding for flood protection. There will be an open house at Hobart Arena on April 2nd from 4 pm-6pm. Commissioner Vetter asked if MaryLynn has reviewed the dam project. Commissioner DeBrosse asked if the MCCD would work with Piqua as they navigate the hydraulic canal. Ms. Lodor said their focus is dams and levees, but they'll do what they can do. Commissioner DeBrosse also asked Ms.

Lodor to clarify how many residents pay for MCCD. Ms. Lodor responded that approximately 20% of residents pay.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the February 20, 2024, Regular City Commission Meeting and approval of the Minutes from the February 22, 2024 Special City Commission Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. R-38-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-39-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-40 -24

A resolution appointing a member to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTION NO. R-41-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTION NO. R-42-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

RESOLUTION NO. R-43-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Board of Zoning Appeals

RESOLUTION NO. R-44-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Commissioner's Committee on the Fire Training facility

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Commissioner's Committee on the Fire Training facility

RESOLUTION NO. R-46-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Commissioner's Committee on the Fire Training facility

RESOLUTION NO. R-47-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Commissioner's Committee on the Fire Training facility

RESOLUTION NO. R-48-24

A resolution appointing a member to the Commissioner's Committee on the Fire Training facility

Mayor Lee asked the clerk to announce the names of citizens appointed to the boards and committees.

Commissioner Simmons said he has extreme issues with the way the board members for the Fire Training Facility were appointed. He said not one of the picks one Commissioner made was appointed.

Commissioner Lee said the Commissioner did get to vote though. Commissioner Vetter said that he was comfortable with the voting process.

Danielle Drieling questioned whether the previous Fire Chief should be on the committee. Commissioner Hohman said the previous Fire Chief was not employed during the issue being reviewed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve the Consent Agenda, and Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. Mayor Lee, Commissioners Hohman, Vetter and DeBrosse were in favor and Commissioner Simmons voted against the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R- 49-24

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to MTech company for the purchase of a new Camel Max 1200 CB Hydro Excavator for the Underground Utilities Department

Introduction: Utilities Director Kevin Krejny stated the Underground Utilities Department is seeking approval to purchase a new Hydro Excavator from MTech Company. This truck is an investment in a piece of equipment that we use heavily for water and sewer cleaning and hydro-excavating, and it should last us at least 20 years. It will replace the 1995 unit we currently have.

We have seen a demo of this truck as well as two others. This one performed the best to meet our needs and is below our budgeted amount for this item. It is being purchased through a cooperative purchasing group, Sourcewell. The City has been a member of Sourcewell for many years and used their joint contracts several times.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner DeBrosse asked if consideration was given to just taking funds from the Sewer fund since it is healthier. Kevin said technically you are supposed to charge it to the department where the equipment is being used.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to approve the resolution, and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hohman made a motion to amend the agenda and place public comment after the commissioner's comments. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Simmons – No comments

Commissioner Hohman – Said he is excited that we are starting to have warmer weather.

Commissioner Vetter – Asked that people be good neighbors and cut their grass. Announced Southview Neighborhood Association will hold a forum March 14 at St Johns Church on educating citizens on

purchasing a home. He announced that the city is putting out materials on proper trash placement. There is a meeting on March 21 regarding Hance Pavilion. There are still a lot of people interested in our parks as Friends of the Parks are considering projects at the park. Commissioner Vetter thanked the Piqua EMS for the excellent service they provided to his home. He announced there would not be a city-wide clean up but if anyone is interested in cleaning up a park, just contact Amy Welker to coordinate. Commissioner DeBrosse – Thanked all applicants who applied to be on a board. It is reaffirming to see all of the new names. With the number of qualified applicants, we could have had 3 committees of 5 for the Fire Safety Training center. Commissioner Lee – Thanked everyone who applied to be on a board and congratulated those that were appointed. Lehman basketball team made it to the tournament.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eva Silvers – Said she is having another bike path clean up in approximately a month. Eva announced a Suicide Prevention Dinner on March 7th for veterans.

Adam Seas – Said he could understand how Commissioner Simmons felt by not having the citizens he chose appointed to board and suggested in the future the procedure for choosing board members be laid out ahead of time. Appreciated the commissioners appointing him to the Planning Commission.

Melony Walker – Announced that the downtown will be having an alien themed event for the solar eclipse. Some things being discussed are selfie stations and games for kids. The next planning meeting is Thursday at Appletree Gallery. Kris Lee asked about other events happening in the area and Michelle Perry said that Johnston Farm is having a watch party, the Piqua Center has an event planned, the library has an exhibit set up and Echo Hills Golf Course will host glow golf. Commissioner Hohman said that traffic is expected to be heavy and cautioned everyone to be careful. Commissioner Hohman asked what the city's plans for public safety are and Amy Welker said there was a meeting about that today and she'll make sure a report gets out to the Commissioners.

Jeff Grimes – Mentioned that he noticed that there was clapping during the presentation of the Jan Mulder award, and he thought clapping wasn't allowed. Mayor Lee said there is a difference between clapping and jeering. He thanked Commissioner DeBrosse for starting the committee to look into the battery burning but said Mayor Lee should not be able to vote for a member because he was an employee and Debbie Stein wasn't allowed on the committee because she was an employee. Jeff said everyone that worked the hardest to research the Fire Training Facility, isn't on the committee. Commissioner Lee told him that anyone who wanted to share information could come to the meetings. Commissioner Hohman encouraged them to form their own committee. Jeff Grimes said he would like a special prosecutor to be appointed to investigate. He also Frank DeBrosse was a BGSU alumni. Commissioner Vetter told Jeff that he has been looking into designating the river a Scenic River.

Kim Heisler – Wondered why we spent all this money on a snowplow when some of them just sit in the parking lot. Amy Welker informed her that the plow is removable, and the trucks are used daily. Ms. Heisler said at a previous meeting there was a long-term contract approved for the water tower. She cautioned that using the same vendor can lead to complicity. Kim said that the city should be careful using grant money. She suggested bottling water and selling it.

Dave Hitchings – Asked why it changed from each commissioner being able to pick one committee member.

Dave Smith – Did not make a comment and would not follow the rules. Was asked to leave. Commissioner Hohman asked that everyone keep their language nicer for kids watching or students attending the meeting.

Pam Hawes – Asked how you can expect citizens to cut their grass when the city doesn't cut the grass on properties they own. Commissioner Hohman asked for address of property City needs to cut and Ms. Hawes said that she owns the property now.

Jim Sheats – Congratulated the committee appointees. He asked what the criteria is for getting a street paved. Commissioner Vetter said that is happening now by a contractor driving the streets and prioritizing the streets by condition and budget. Jim Sheats said he feels like the South Side gets ignored. Amy Welker said the pavement preservation plan should be coming out soon. Commissioner Hohman said we are working on the GIS which will show streets that were done and streets on the list to be done. Mr. Sheats asked if we have to pay Troy when they provide Piqua with a ladder truck. Amy Welker said that there is no charge for mutual aide. He said that we all need to work together to bring this town together.

Rus Fashner – Thanked Mayor Lee for enforcing the rules. He said that people are tired of the way citizens are treating the staff and commission.

Danielle Drieling – Thanked Commissioner Hohman for helping her get in touch with someone who assessed a pole that was leaning her alley. Commissioner Hohman said this pole is marked for replacement. He said this is a good example if you see something, say something.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR MEETING at 8:09 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.


KRIS LEE, MAYOR

Passed: 3.19.2024


Commission Clerk