

**PIQUA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 4 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER PAUL OBERDORFER

Mr. Oberdorfer shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Safety Regional Training Center, highlighting the training building, the training classroom, and the technical training facility. He briefly reviewed the water, air modeling, and soil sampling results, noting that there are no concerning contamination levels or concerns about long-term health conditions. Mr. Oberdorfer talked about how the former water treatment plant site will be recommissioned for use as a public safety training center through a modified Joint Use Agreement with Bowling Green State University.

REVISIONS OF BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY JOINT USER AGREEMENT

Introduction: Law Director Frank Patrizio provided a history of the agreement with BGSU. The original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was authorized by the Commission in 2018 for training, along with fire research and development at the former water treatment plant site. A new MOU, along with a new Joint User Agreement (JUA), was then authorized by the Commission in July 2021 for training, fire research and development. Mr. Patrizio then talked about the amendments to be made to the 2021 MOU & JUA, in particular to remove the research and development portion of the agreement. He said that the City and BGSU are no longer interested in battery testing, only fire suppression techniques and certification training. The 2024 revisions will not allow any burning of batteries or testing of batteries.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman reiterated that this revision will remove the language that allowed research and development for experimental battery burning and testing. He said that the Commission will also be creating specific restrictions as to what can be burned in the city limits, and he emphasized that the facility will be utilized as it was intended originally.

PRESENTATION BY INTERIM FIRE CHIEF ADAMS

Introduction: Interim Fire Chief Lee Adams shared a PowerPoint presentation on how training sharpens his fire crew's abilities to protect the citizens of Piqua and to reduce the incidence of injuries to his firefighters. He explained that many rescue techniques are not taught in the basic level skills training and

stressed the importance of live fire training in order to learn fire behavior and thermal imaging. Chief Adams also commented that 14 of the 24 Piqua firefighters have less than one year of experience at the Piqua Fire Department. He shared the benefits of the JUA to Piqua Fire, including opportunities to partner with UVCC, which would increase the pipeline of future firefighter candidates.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Simmons suggested possible use of the training facility by the County EMA for "live site training" in the future.

Commissioner DeBrosse asked where training currently occurs, to which Chief Adams replied that they do have access sometimes to Troy Fire Station #2 located on Troy-Sidney Road and can use existing buildings in Piqua if available and appropriate for specific trainings, but mostly the firefighters must travel for training. Commissioner DeBrosse also asked Firefighter Tyler Beard how this training helps. Firefighter Beard said that having a training facility nearby would be a tremendous help, as the crew will not have to travel out of the area for training sessions. Having their own training facility will also allow strategic team planning and for training to happen more frequently while the crew is still in service.

Mayor Lee asked if the firefighters were afraid to be at the public safety training center; Firefighter Beard responded that they are not afraid to train there, they have reviewed the testing results and are comfortable moving forward, and that it would save the city extra travel costs.

PRESENTATION BY DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS

Introduction: Deputy Chief Dave Thomas expressed the Piqua Police Department's critical need for a training facility, as there are not many sites to use. Currently, the police crew must travel for training, which causes staffing issues. This training facility would allow for more training more often. Deputy Chief Thomas shared that the majority of his staff have less than 5 years of experience, indicating a great need for more efficient, more frequent training opportunities. Training at this site would include both patrol training and tactical response team training.

PUBLIC COMMENT

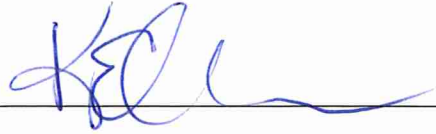
Jeff Lange talked about the types of burning allowed at the public safety training site and asked that signs be posted when burns occur. He also wanted to confirm that BGSU cannot use the chlorine building space any longer.

Diana Parke expressed concerns that the city did not test for everything at the site. She is concerned with contaminants in the water there as well.

Debbie Stein stated that dioxins are a heinous poison and would like the city to test for dioxins at the site.

ADJOURNMENT at 5 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to adjourn, and Commissioner DeBrosse seconded the motion. All approved and the motion was carried unanimously.



KRIS LEE, MAYOR

Passed: 3.19.2024

Attest: Melissa Kinney

MELISSA KINNEY, COMMISSION CLERK