

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Vetter made a motion to excuse Commissioner DeBrosse from the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hohman. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Lee declared Commissioner DeBrosse excused.

PRESENTATION

Utilities Business Office Manager RJ Monnier introduced Seamus McNamee, Vice President of Research at the Great Blue Research Company, Inc. in Connecticut. Mr. McNamee presented results from a Utilities Customer Survey that was conducted November 19, 2023, through January 3, 2024, that gauged customer preferences and levels of satisfaction with Piqua utilities. Data was collected from 371 participants who showed overall satisfaction with the electric, water, sewer, and refuse services in Piqua. Of those surveyed, 83% reported total satisfaction with their customer service experience. Mr. Monnier stressed the positive impact for Piqua utility customers with recent upgrades in utility technology, such as communication improvements, real-time balances on the SmartHub app, and powerful comparison tools. He said that these survey results are important for operational decisions, such as knowing how customers want to receive communications from the city.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the April 9, 2024, Regular City Commission Meeting

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

WORK SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to amend the Agenda to include a Work Session, and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hohman presented a draft copy of a new ordinance that would regulate burning activities upon property owned by the City of Piqua. He noted that this would not include personal property, only property owned by the city. Commissioner Hohman then read the entire language of the proposed ordinance and said he would like to conduct an official first reading at the next City Commission Meeting.

Mayor Lee commented that this ordinance would be a second step in the right direction and that it needs to be very thorough.

Commissioner Simmons had questions about Class A, B and K fires in Section 3. He also said that pallets that are chemically treated should not be allowed to be burned. Law Director Frank Patrizio informed the Commission that permits obtained from RAPCA will not allow those type of pallets to be burned.

Commissioner Hohman moved to close the Work Session, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-2-24 (3rd Reading)

An ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio, for the Year 2024

Introduction: Finance Director Jerry O'Brien reminded Commission that this ordinance would allow the Finance Department to adjust certain line items in the 2024 Budget.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter said that he was comfortable proceeding with these amendments, as Mr. O'Brien provided a good explanation of the changes in the 1st & 2nd Readings.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the increase in funds of \$327,000 in Section 35 for Lock 9 Park Restrooms. City Manager Paul Oberdorfer explained that initially public restrooms were not considered for the Lock 9 Project, but that the contingency allowed for a change in the design and some additional cost savings were realized along the way. This allows for funds for a public restroom within the original budget parameters.

Public Comment: Jeff Grimes questioned the total cost involved in the Lock 9 Project, and Mr. Oberdorfer responded that funds were moved around, not increased, for the public restrooms as part of the contingency.

Commissioner Hohman commented that the original budget for the Lock 9 Project was approved one and a half years ago.

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

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-3-24 (1st Reading)

An ordinance to adopt Chapter 99: Piqua Historic Preservation Ordinance

Introduction: Community Services Director Kyle Hinkelman stated that this ordinance was previously discussed in a Work Session on April 9, 2024, and has been recommended for approval unanimously by the Planning Commission on April 10, 2024. Mr. Hinkelman said that this ordinance would further the city's goal of becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), including creating a new consolidated boundary line for the Piqua Historic District, creating a process and procedure for review of landmark designations and Certificates of Appropriateness within the District and for landmarked structures, and creating a separate City Historic Review Commission (CHRC).

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee said that he received an inquiry from Don Smith, who is concerned about standards changing in the existing Caldwell Historic District due to the new ordinance. Mr. Hinkelman responded that current regulations and processes in the Caldwell Historic District and the Downtown Historic District will remain the same; there will be no code changes. Mayor Lee also asked if the new board could apply for grants, to which Mr. Hinkelman responded yes.

Commissioner Hohman inquired about homes being added to the district and asked how the new board would operate. Mr. Hinkelman said that nothing would change as far as homes included in the district and that the new board would be composed of 5 members to make informed decisions and would be required to meet a minimum of 4 times a year.

Commissioner Simmons asked if local landmarks outside of the historic district boundaries could be considered, to which Mr. Hinkelman responded that could be done, along with the option to change the boundaries anytime.

Public Comment: Melanie Walker expressed her concerns with the appropriateness of Section 4 of Chapter 99, as she is both a resident and business owner in the historic district. Mr. Hinkelman replied that there are some issues with the existing language that he is investigating and that further updates may be needed. He also offered to meet with her and Don Smith to discuss their concerns further.

Jeff Grimes commented that he thinks the city uses "selective enforcement."

Rick Walker inquired about how citizens can apply for grants. Mr. Hinkelman responded that federal dollars must go through the local municipality, but citizens can go through the application process for grants by partnering with the city.

ORDINANCE NO. O-4-24 (1st Reading)

An ordinance to amend Chapter 32: Boards and Commissions

Introduction: Mr. Hinkelman explained that this ordinance would modify 2 sections of Chapter 32 to centralize the existing Board of Zoning Appeals into this chapter, and to create a brand-new board, the City Historic Review Commission. He noted that this ordinance was also recommended unanimously for approval by the Planning Commission on April 10, 2024.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

ORDINANCE NO. O-5-24 (1st Reading)

An ordinance to amend Title XV: Land Usage, Piqua Development Code

Introduction: Mr. Hinkelman explained that this ordinance would amend multiple sections of the Piqua Development Code that was adopted in 2023. He briefly mentioned those changes, including clarification of the "Development Director" title, establishment of the Board of Zoning Appeals under Chapter 32, and Special Use permits.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Oberdorfer announced that there will be a Public Open House with live demonstrations this Thursday, April 18th at the Fire Safety Training Center from 4-6 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vetter announced the next meeting regarding Hance Pavilion scheduled for this Thursday, April 18th at 7 pm to discuss ADA compliance issues. He reminded citizens to dispose of grass clippings properly and to put trash and recycling carts away after collection. He thanked everyone involved in the Eclipse events in Piqua and announced a meeting about the Hydraulic Canal on April 25, 2024.

Commissioner Simmons reiterated the importance of not putting grass clippings in the streets, as this can be a hazard for motorcyclists.

Commissioner Hohman requested data at the next meeting due to the high rain lately; he wants to know if there are noticeable improvements or leaks after the smoke test that was recently conducted.

Mayor Lee reminded residents to be careful, as many people will be outdoors in the warmer weather.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alisha Lange said that she is working on getting each City Commissioner recalled, and then removing the City Manager along with changing Piqua's form of government.

Eva Silvers announced that she, Laurie Kiser, and Joe Wilson are coordinating a clean up this coming Saturday, April 20th in the area of Roosevelt Avenue near the Kroger bike path area. She added that there are lots of volunteers and good things happening in Piqua.

Nicholas Mahrt asked for more information regarding the study conducted by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. on Piqua's water supply lakes. Mr. Oberdorfer said that this will be provided in the next agenda packet. Mr. Mahrt also expressed concerns with protective fire gear being worn in the city's water source while firefighters are practicing skills and restrictive signage near the Fire Safety Training Center.

Jeff Grimes stated that there should be no burning ever again at 9300 State Route 66, Piqua. He said that wood smoke creates particle pollution, which depletes nutrients in soil and negatively affects the ecosystem.

Tom Hudson announced that there will be an Honor Gardens Ceremony at Piqua High School on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 11 am to honor Phil Wisecup. Mr. Wisecup is a 1973 graduate of Piqua High School who enjoyed a 36-year successful career in the Navy, including the distinction of Top 50.

Kim Heisler commented that the electronic data gathered from the SmartHub app is very valuable for customers with city utilities. She also asked about the city's drinking water standards compared to the standards of the Federal Government. Mr. Oberdorfer said that Utilities Director Kevin Krejny would provide her with more information.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:55 p.m.

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


KRIS LEE, MAYOR

Passed: 5-9-2024

Attest: Diana Tamplin
COMMISSION CLERK