



**PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 5 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:03 pm

Commissioner Hohman made a motion to adjourn to executive session and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session is to consider confidential information related to economic development as further defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(8) or as amended

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 pm

Commissioner Hohman made a motion to adjourn from executive session and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Hohman presented a proclamation to Jim Hemmert for Bike Month. Jim Hemmert said the city has 14 miles of paved path and it is a safe and scenic family activity. He said May 13-19 is bike to work week and May 17 is bike to work day. Mr. Hemmert thanked the city for recognizing Bike Month.

PRESENTATION - Report from Committee on Fire Training Facility

Nancy Roof, chair, and David Roth, co-chair, took turns giving updates on each of their meetings. They said they take their job seriously and even though it's a daunting task, they have a lot of support and do what it takes to provide a final report. They thanked the city commission for giving them this opportunity. They thanked Michelle Perry, Mark Neuman, Frank Patrizio and Christine Price for their assistance. Nancy Roof also said they have to follow the Sunshine Laws since they are an investigative committee. Ms. Roof thanked Debbie Stein, Jeff Lange, and Alishia Lange for working with the committee and sharing information.

Commissioner Hohman said the committee can present as little or as much as they want. We want the committee to be as unbiased as possible.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the April 16, 2024, Regular City Commission Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. R-67-24

A resolution accepting the resignation of Gary Koenig as a member of the Planning Commission

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

Mayor Lee said he is sorry to see Gary Koenig go. Mayor Lee announced that the board opening for planning commission would be on the website tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS

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

An ordinance to adopt Chapter 99: Piqua Historic Preservation Ordinance

Introduction: Kyle Hinkelman said over the last few weeks the staff met with Piqua Historic District residents. There are some changes since the first reading. A few of the changes were to remove the reference to landscaping and specify that the lighting was intended for residential properties only. There may be a couple more changes before the final reading.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman thanked Kyle Hinkelman for meeting with him and clarifying this ordinance.

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-4-24 (2nd Reading)

An ordinance to amend Chapter 32: Boards and Commissions

Introduction: Kyle Hinkelman said there have been no changes since the first reading but there are ongoing discussions about representation.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee said he would like to see representation from the Historic District on the new committee. Commissioner Vetter asked if more areas of the city were included in the Historic Preservation area, if representation from those areas could be on the committee. Commissioner Hohman stated that right now the Caldwell District is the only area that already has the designation.

Public Comments: Don Smith, president of the Caldwell Historic District, said he believes someone from his district should be on the committee.

Action Taken: 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-5-24 (2nd Reading)

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

Introduction: Kyle Hinkelman said there have been no changes from the previous reading. This development code was first adopted last June. A year later there are a number of items that have

changed, or we didn't realize that they would be as impactful in the way that they are. The majority of changes are relative to moving out the certificate of appropriateness and the historic regulations from our code.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: 2nd Reading

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-6-24 (1ST Reading)

An ordinance to regulate burning activities

Introduction: Commissioner Hohman gave a presentation explaining each section of the ordinance he was presenting. [Presentation](#)

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman read a statement of why he proposed this ordinance. Commissioner Simmons said the penalties should be \$1,500, \$3,000, and \$5,000.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to increase the penalty and Mayor Lee seconded the motion. Roll Call was taken and Mayor Lee, Commissioners DeBrosse, Hohman and Simmons voted Yah. Commissioner Vetter voted nah. The motion to raise the penalty in O-6-24 passed.

Commissioner Simmons says he's thinking about loopholes and thinks private property should not be able to burn hazardous materials either. Commissioner Hohman suggested that Commissioner Simmons write an ordinance to go along with this ordinance. Commissioner DeBrosse thanked Commissioner Hohman for putting this ordinance together along with Paul Oberdorfer, Frank Patrizio, and any department heads who weighed in. He also appreciated that all commissioners were given the opportunity to weigh in.

Public Comments: Nancy Roof said that the EPA, RAPCA and BGSU needs to be aware of this ordinance.

Frank Patrizio said the ordinance does not prevent the burning of pallets. Nancy Roof said she regrets hearing comments directed towards community members.

Dave Smith gave his opinion. Frank Patrizio interrupted him on more than one occasion to tell him profanity was not permitted.

Kim Heisler said Commissioner Hohman did a great job and he's on a good path. Ms. Heisler said it needs a little more work as she feels the fines are too low. She said the word destructive she would like it changed to hazardous. Ms. Heisler said the soil, air and water are okay but what about the people. Commissioner Hohman discussed his reasoning for using the word "destructive". Ms. Heisler said that the word privately owned land should be removed.

Jeff Grimes said that the reference Commissioner Hohman made of "those people" are the ones that got the burning stopped. Mr. Grimes suggested moving the fire training center.

Nick Mahrt agreed with Jeff Grimes on the suggestion of moving the Fire Training Center. He said he sees families with pets on the bike path and it doesn't make sense to have fire training this close to the bike path. Mr. Mahrt said he submitted a proposal to Mayor Lee about what the current location of the fire training center could be used for and suggested a new location.

Alisha Lange addressed Commissioner Hohman and said that she has plenty of signatures to recall him. Ms. Lange said she agrees with Kim Heisler's comments. Alisha reported that she spoke with a professional regarding the battery burning that took place in Piqua.

Eva Silvers stated many ways that we come into contact with smoke and chemicals on a daily basis. She said if you go to a restaurant there's smoke, manufacturers produce smoke, a person who smokes may subject themselves to smoke when they get in their car, and chemicals are in all parts of our society now. Eva said she finds the personal attacks made during public comments astonishing. She said that Toxic Piqua started out with a good purpose.

Adam Seas said he has been busy investing money in his hometown. He told Commissioner Hohman that he believes he'd win an election today if there was one. Adam said he had a chance to tour Lock 9 park and it is bad ass. He said the community is tired of all the negativity.

Action Taken: 1st Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-7-24 (1st Reading)

An ordinance repealing and replacing Piqua Municipal Code Section 30.01

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien said this ordinance gives the city manager permission to settle claims the same as the competitive bidding process that is set by the ORC. That amount is currently \$75,000. This would give the city manager the same authority that he already has with other types of contracts.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner DeBrosse asked for an example of what this would cover. Jerry O'Brien gave an example as property damage that the city causes. Commissioner Vetter confirmed that it doesn't stop the city manager from bringing claims against the city to the commissioner's attention. Commissioner Hohman asked if there was any urgency, or if this was just house cleaning, to which Jerry O'Brien said it is just house cleaning. Commissioner DeBrosse asked if it was in line with the ORC and Jerry said it was.

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: 1st Reading

RESOLUTION NO. R-68-24

A resolution awarding a contract to M & T Excavating, LLC for the Ridge Street water main extension project

Introduction: Kevin Krejny said he has come before the commission before for grant funding and now he is coming with bids. On April 18, 2024, two bids were received for the Ridge Street Water Main Extension Project. The lowest bid of \$190,000 was provided by M & T Excavating out of Bradford. The project will consist of the replacement of the existing water main, services and associated fittings from Grant Street to South Street on Ridge Street. The water main size will be increased to the appropriate 8" residential

size. There are 9 homes on that street. This was originally part of the Fox Drive tower project, but this project did not get done when Fox Drive was completed so it was nominated for grant funding. The city has received grant money to help with this project and the work has to be completed by the end of the year, but he anticipates its completion by Halloween.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee confirmed that 100,000 of it was grant funding and Kevin said yes, about half. Commissioner Vetter asked if the Underground Utility Board had heard the proposal and if so, he asked how they reacted. Kevin Krejny said yes, this has been on the list of potential projects since the utility board started a year and a half ago, so they are well aware of it. They were made aware of the award also. Commissioner Hohman asked what kind of grant this was, and Kevin Krejny replied that it was a trickle down from Covid Relief funds that divided into development and water projects.

Public Comments: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-69-24

A resolution approving the Miami County 9-1-1 Final Plan for the Miami County Communications Center

Introduction: Paul Oberdorfer said this resolution is needed to continue our services with the Miami County Communication Center.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if this is the first time we have approved this. Safety Services Director Rick Byron said this is the first time since 1989 that they have updated their plan. Commissioner Vetter asked if this has a term to it. Rick Byron said this allows for us to continue using the Miami County Communication Center for dispatch.

Public Comments: None

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Oberdorfer announced that the Taste of the Arts will be May 17th on Main Street.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Vetter addressed several issues. He received several emails regarding recreational fires in Piqua. Piqua does not have a specific ordinance and follows the fire code. This summer the City of Piqua will review the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). A meeting to discuss the Hance Pavilion will be held May 16 at the YMCA. Commissioner Vetter asked the city manager if we have a target date for street repair. He announced that this is clean air week and there will be a Town Hall on May 16. He expressed his concern for appliances and mattresses being left by the curb. The city still needs help with spaying and neutering cats. Lastly, he asked if there is a date for the hydraulic canal committee to meet again.

Commissioner Simmons recited a quote from one of his favorite musicians. He addressed Commissioner Hohman's comment which referenced to "those people" and said it predates the YouTuber that came to town.

Commissioner Hohman looked into the cannabis tax and how it benefits Piqua. The Ohio law regulates the tax, and the city only receives income tax and a portion of the property tax. Commissioner Hohman read a letter from Kathy Sherman who could not attend the meeting. Her letter was a show of support for Paul Oberdorfer. She said she wanted to shine a light on him as he has had to make hard decisions to put Piqua on the right path. Commissioner Hohman said that a concerned citizen asked whether Chief Rick Byron's position as Safety Services Director could be a conflict. Commissioner Hohman said that the Safety Services Director is not directing a fire scene. He is overseeing operational control. He thanked Eva Silvers for organizing a community clean up. He thanked Piqua Police Department, Paul Oberdorfer and everyone who showed up. A citizen has concerns with our phone tree not directing citizens to the right place. Commissioner Hohman said there is a very small group of negative people but if you ask the group of people who have a vested interest in the community, they think the City Manager is doing a pretty great job. Given the choice between these two groups, Commissioner Hohman said he stands with Paul Oberdorfer and his ongoing record of benefiting the city.

Commissioner DeBrosse thanked the commission for excusing him at the last meeting. He said he did watch RJ Monnier's presentation on the utility office and thanked him and the entire Utilities Business Office staff for their work. He said he knows they have to deal with some unhappy folks as his mom, Shery DeBrosse, retired from the utility office. Commissioner DeBrosse thanked Kevin Krejny for bringing back the CAC group and bringing them up to speed on where we are with ODNR. Kevin Krejny also presented the CAC with some possible next steps. Citizens were concerned about the canal, Echo Lake, Frantz Pond and Swift Run being lowered in anticipation of a major rain event and the ramifications if we didn't get the amount of rain and what the water would look like until we got rain to fill it back up. One recommendation was to put in a measuring spot to see how much it was lowered and within a week or so Kevin and his team had it up. He thanked the Fire Training Committee and said he feels pride that they voluntarily put forth their time to help the community. Frank wished his father, Don DeBrosse, a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Lee thanked Commissioner DeBrosse for initiating the Fire Training committee and Commissioner Hohman for working on the ordinance restricting burning. He said we've got nothing to hide. Piqua prom was last week, and Lehman prom is next weekend. The 4th of July celebration will be held at the Piqua Center, and it should be a good time. He said the Piqua Center is recruiting the commissioners to sit in the dunk booth. The planning commission application will be on the website tomorrow. Mayor Lee said that you don't have to like everything, but we have a city manager that does a good job. He supports Paul Oberdorfer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eva Silvers thanked Paul Oberdorfer and his wife, Commissioner Hohman, Spencer Peltier, Crooked Handle folks and others who came out to help with the clean-up. They got a lot done and were able to see the old BMX tracks. She said it gave a chance for everyone to go out and see what this community holds and why people are so vested. She listed multiple events she's been involved in but said the intent is because not everyone has time to look into every aspect. She said that is true in people's personal lives, the city commission and everyone who sits in a city seat. Eva said the reality is whatever transpired then

has been rectified. She said that no city party had full knowledge of what took place. So, it is not logical to cast blame on you when you are working on solutions. At some point you have to look at the intent and motive of what's being done. Eva said this is just an attack on anyone and everyone that could have had a hand in it. Ms. Silvers gave credit to Commissioner Hohman and Commissioner DeBrosse for their efforts toward a solution. Eva said everyone might not agree with the City Manager, but you won't find another city manager bring his wife out and pick up broken beer bottles and needles. Eva said he didn't have to do that, and he must care a little. She said she thinks it's time for everyone to understand that there is a fire committee working on it, the water testing has been done, and she thinks it time for citizens and businesses to take a step back and say we've heard enough. Let the committee come to the decision that they were chosen to do.

Jim Sheets gave a shout out to Danielle at the Headquarters Beauty Shop on McKinley. About a year ago he started coming to meetings and wanted to become a commissioner. He became involved with a group of people and there was a rift between some people. He talked about a business owner that asked him about expanding to Piqua and he suggested that he watch some commission meetings. After watching the meeting, the business owner changed his mind about opening a business here because of all of the chaos. Jim said he would like to see both sides come together and hash out their differences. Mayor Lee said he would love it and suggested the two sides come together at a Town Hall.

Kim Heisler said she has brought the valuation of the old Water Plant many times and asked that we ask the county to reevaluate. Frank Patrizio said the city does not pay taxes. Law Director Patrizio also said there is a lot of land with the property although he doesn't believe it's correct either. Ms. Heisler said as a citizen it makes her wonder what the city has planned for that property.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:27 pm

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: 5.21.2024

Attest: Melissa Kinney
COMMISSION CLERK