



**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 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 Simmons, DeBrosse, Hohman and Vetter were present.

**PRESENTATION**

Monthly Report from the Commissioners Committee on the Fire Training Facility  
David Roth, Nancy Roof, and Joe Thompson thanked the City Manager for responding to their questions. They said they have been researching outside legal counsel and would like to hire Dan Brown of Dayton to advise them on the sunshine laws, public record requests, research and final report. The commission asked them to provide a contract to the city manager and to start with 5 hours. The commissioners said they would like to meet with him first and Nancy Roof requested that the committee be present when the commissioners meet with Dan Brown. A discussion took place about whether the commission would meet separately with him and who the attorney represents.

Commissioner Hohman asked for an update on the committee's progress and if the tour of the old water plant was helpful. Nancy and David said it was helpful to see the location they've been reading about in the documents. Commissioner Hohman asked if they wore protective gear while at the site and they said they did not. Commissioner Hohman said he has heard claims that the site is an ongoing danger and the whole city is contaminated. He said it says a lot that you didn't wear protective equipment. Nancy Roof and David said they thought afterwards that maybe they should have. David mentioned an odor when entering the chlorine room.

**PRESENTATION**

Quarterly Report from the Park Board  
Natalie Young, chair of the Park Board said they have been inspecting parks regularly. She said at their meetings that have discussed different topics to consider but knows there are still projects on the Parks Master Plan from previous years that still haven't been completed. Ms. Young said she's glad to hear that some tax revenue from recreational marijuana will filter back to the Parks. Natalie thanked the park volunteers.

Terry Wright said that the Mote Park building lease says that if the building is not being used, citizens should be able to rent it. He said it isn't listed on our website as an option to rent. Mayor Lee asked Paul if it could be rented, and Paul Oberdorfer said the restrooms are not ADA compliant.

Commissioner DeBrosse said it is music to his ears that the parks are the committees labor of love. He said he feels the recreational marijuana tax will pass and he would love to see the Parks Board wish list.

Mayor Lee said Goodrich Giles Park is being cleaned up on July 25<sup>th</sup>. He said the parks are important and he appreciates the boards dedication. He asked Natalie and Terry to keep updating the commission. Natalie Young said she wished there was more communication. She said all parks received new signage except Shawnee park. She wondered why and said we all need to work together.

Commissioner Simmons said he and his wife have been on the Park Board. He thinks there is a good future.

## **PRESENTATION**

Finance Department Update – Jerry O’Brien

Jerry O’Brien gave a slide presentation on the procedures of the Finance Department.

## **REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Minutes from the June 18, 2024 and June 25, 2024 City Commission Meetings

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R-96-24**

A resolution of appreciation for the first half of 2024 City of Piqua Volunteers

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R-97-24**

A resolution appointing a board member to the Diversity Committee

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R-90-24**

A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract with ClearGov for a Software solution to aid in the annual budgeting process

Commissioner’s comments: Mayor Lee asked the clerk to name the person who was appointed to the Diversity, and it was Jim Sheats. Commissioner Hohman thanked all of the volunteers.

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.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. O-9-24 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

An ordinance allocating adult use cannabis marijuana excise tax revenue

Introduction: The State of Ohio is now taxing the sale of recreational marijuana, which is a 10% excise tax. As a host community, the City of Piqua will receive a portion of that quarterly. This ordinance allows for that revenue stream to go to the Parks Department to fund improvements in the park system of Piqua. Frank Patrizio said this is a second reading

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee said there must be something in place before the state sets legislation. It's a big win.

Commissioner Simmons said he would like to see marijuana grown in our city parks although the State would not go for it.

Public Comment: Nicholas Mahrt said that he is excited about the potential tax revenue, but he thought he understood that the revenue will go to the county. Mayor Lee said this is for recreational. Nicholas Mahrt suggested having a festival focused around recreational marijuana.

Jeff Grimes said the streets could use the funds as they need repair. Commissioner Hohman said the parks need the money and the street repair can come from the budget.

Paul Oberdorfer said there is already a street levy.

### **ORDINANCE NO. O-11-24 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

An ordinance to permitting the Commission to remove appointed representatives from Boards created by the Commission

Introduction: Frank Patrizio stated this Ordinance was requested by the commission. Mr. Patrizio said that currently there is no process in place in the city's charter for the removal of board and committee members. He said that questions have been raised recently, as some boards allow for removal of members, but there is no process established.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner DeBrosse asked if this addresses Planning Commission also and Frank replied that it did.

Public Comment: None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. O-12-24 (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

An ordinance to repeal Piqua Code 30.15 in its entirety and to adopt new rules for commission

Introduction: Frank Patrizio said this ordinance is an update to the meeting rules. He said it modifies how we handle the meeting. The first part is for business and the second part is for public comment.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman moved to amend section 8 from 3 to 5 minutes. Commissioner Simmons seconded the amendment, and the amendment was approved by all.

Commissioner Hohman made a motion to amend rules of comment to add section .12 to allow that citizens who didn't fill out comment card can request one during public comment and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. Commissioner Simmons seconded and the amendment was approved by all.

Frank Patrizio said there will be a box for comment cards available during the entire meeting. Commissioner Hohman said he doesn't know if people will feel comfortable putting a comment card in box during the meeting. Commissioner Simmons said it may be considered discrimination if someone can't write. Paul Oberdorfer said if anyone has a disability, they can just ask staff to help them fill it out.

#### Comments:

Commissioner Hohman explained that commissioners won't interrupt the allotted 5 minutes for public comment unless the speaker asks for an answer. Commissioner Simmons was concerned about the length of time it may take to respond to a question. Frank Patrizio said the speaker could ask the commissioners to hold their answers until the speaker was done with all of their questions. Commissioner Hohman said he liked this proposal better than the first draft.

Public Comment: Kim Heisler asked for number 6 of the rules to be clarified and that number 7 be changed from non-citizen to any person with a Piqua address. Ms. Heisler questioned why number 9 used the word "may" to allow public comment. She said, "we want to be heard". She also didn't believe comment cards were necessary as we don't need another layer. Ms. Heisler was concerned that there was no video or minutes for the June 25, 2024 meeting. The clerk addressed the mayor and said the June 25<sup>th</sup> minutes were just approved at this meeting and would be uploaded after this meeting.

Jeff Grimes asked about commissioners not commenting until after the 5 minutes. He said it's unfair. He said he's asked hundreds of questions, and they haven't been answered. Mayor Lee said the questions are answered in the next agenda packet.

Frank DeBrosse said the mayor holds office hours every Wednesday and all of the Commissioners contact info is on the website. There are plenty of opportunity to ask questions besides at a business meeting.

Nicholas Mahrt said he has seen the mayor extend time when needed. He said the charter specifies that someone can ask for an extension. Frank Patrizio said there is case law where if you extend it for one person but not for another it could be an issue. He said he appreciates the commissioners and thinks they are doing a good job.

Frank DeBrosse again said that you don't have to get everything out in 5 minutes. He said you can come up after a meeting or go to the city manager's office between 8-4 M-F. He said everyone is getting too hung up on the 5-minute rule. Commissioner Hohman said he regularly gets phone calls. The mayor's office is open from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Wednesday and there is no limit.

## **ORDINANCE NO. O-13-24 (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

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

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien said the changes to the appropriations are due to changes in plans and unforeseen circumstances at the time the 2024 budget was completed. He said that he highlighted the lines that were changed.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman thanked him for highlighting the changes as it makes it easier to identify.

Public Comment: Kim Heiser asked if the \$52,000 increase in Planning and Zoning meant the Administrative Assistant would make that much. She felt that was over the average median for Piqua. Kyle Hinkelman said the amount includes benefits.

## **RESOLUTION NO. R-94-24**

A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract with GovWell for a permitting software solution

Introduction: Kyle Hinkelman said the Community Services Department was created in January, 2024 in an effort to find efficiencies within multiple departments of the City of Piqua. Over the last six months our staff has worked to integrate and reduce redundancies along with providing more service to residents. The new software will provide additional services to residents and businesses and make the permitting experience better. The additional services include:

- External portal to see where the permit is in the approval process
- Online payment options within the system
- Faster approval / review times
- Public mapping and data reports

Staff demoed and received quotes from multiple vendors, and after substantial review is recommending that the City of Piqua purchase GovWell to provide permitting services to the Community Services Department. This includes, but is not limited to, the planning & zoning permits, engineering permits, special use permits, contractor licensing, rental registration.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee asked how many software programs were looked at and Kyle responded that they looked at 7 but dove deeper with 4. Mayor Lee asked if this was the cheapest and Kyle said this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> cheapest. Commissioner Hohman thanked Kyle for running through this with him prior to the meeting. He feels it will be great if someone can use the portal at all hours and see the history of the house. Commissioner Simmons said he thinks it will be a benefit when the office is closed and open. He thought if there were a savings on foot traffic maybe we could pass that on to the citizens. Paul Oberdorfer said that we are constantly looking at fees and the administrative costs are all baked in. Kyle said that they have looked at fees and the City of Piqua is already substantially lower than surrounding communities.

Public Comment: None

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-95-24**

A resolution regarding the applied for liquor permit for Quick Mart, 538 McKinley Street, Piqua, Ohio, 45356

Introduction: Frank said the application was made to the State of Ohio and the staff has no objections.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioners discussed location.

Public Comment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to approve the resolution, and Mayor Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Lee, Commissioners Hohman, Vetter and DeBrosse voted in favor of the resolution. Commissioner Vetter voted Nay. The motion was carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-98-24**

Resolution delegating the number of assistants and other subordinates to be employed in the Piqua Police Department from the commission to the city manager

Introduction: Rick Byron said this request is to delegate its authority outlined in Section 38 of the City of Piqua Charter from the Commission to the City Manager concerning the City of Piqua Police Department. This request to delegate authority to the City Manager to determine the number of such assistants and subordinates in the police department is a desire to restructure our management staff by eliminating a Deputy Chief promotional position and replacing it with a patrol officer entry level position. This restructuring of the management rank would not only result in a financial savings to the City, but by replacing the position with an entry level police officer this would put one more resource on the street where it is most needed - serving the community. Authorized staffing levels previously approved by the Commission would remain at 38 Sworn Officers and 3 Civilian employees.

If approved by the Commission the department structure would be as follows.

- 1 – Police Chief
- 2 – Deputy Chiefs
- 5 – Lieutenants
- 30 - Patrol Officers
- 3 – Civilian Employees

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Lee asked if the department was briefed, and Rick Byron said he has discussed the direction he wants to go with some but not all. Commissioner Hohman said it is great to get an extra patrol officer. Mayor Lee said he worked in the Police Department when there were only 2 Deputy Chiefs.

Public Comment:

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

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Paul Oberdorfer thanked Natalie Young and said he will attend the next Parks Board meeting. Mr. Oberdorfer also thanked her for mentioning the Lock 9 ribbon cutting this Thursday. Then on July 27<sup>th</sup> will be the first event and is free to the public.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENT**

Commissioner Vetter announced the Friends of Hance Pavilion meeting is Thursday at 7:00 pm at the YMCA. The group has established a 501 C3 and they are getting closer to appointing a board. He said this is the third year the citizens have not been able to use Mote Park and we need to re-access. He said he had to use emergency services recently and feels very fortunate to live in a city where we have great services.

Commissioner Simmons mentioned an idea for Lock 9 park. Also recognized his wife for being present.

Commissioner Hohman said there are a lot of ways to get in touch with the commissioners. He said he gets phone calls all of the time and would meet with people individually if they wanted. He said he received a call about a crime, and it was passed onto the Police Chief.

Commissioner DeBrosse thanked Chief Byron for handling the incident at Piqua High School. He said it could have taken a different direction and he wanted to take a minute to give a shout out to the officers for the outcome.

Mayor Lee thanked all of the volunteers that have helped in various ways. He named some of the groups and gave a shout out to his children for being on a volunteer group. He extended an invite to the Lock 9 dedication at 4 on July 18 and to the first concert on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Chief Byron and the Police Department for their response at the school. He said there are a lot of good officers.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ruth Koon and Lorna Swisher congratulated the City for Lock 9 park and the outstanding mural of the Mills Brothers. Ruth said the mural was started 5 weeks ago by artists out of Columbus. The artists are very gracious for all of the friendly people they've met in Piqua. The unveiling will be August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm. Ruth has been in contact with the granddaughter of the Mills Brothers who is 95. She is very proud of the mural. Commissioner Hohman commented on what a great job Ruth and Lorna have done on finding grants and getting donations for the project. He said it looks great from the trail bridge overlooking Lock 9.

Melonie Walker said we have an awesome Police Department. She told of 2 dogs that almost got hit on Main Street and 2 patrol cars came to help. She said the officers were great.

Nicholas Mahrt said the mural turned out well. He also recognized the commissioners for their commitment. He said that Chief Byron, the Police Department and Fire Department are awesome. He sees different events Piqua could plan and named several he had thought of.


Kim Heisler thanked the commissioners for allowing the committee to join them when they meet with the attorney being hired to help investigate the Fire burn facility. She said #14 of the new rules being proposed is not fair. (re: 9:00 ending time for meeting)

Thomas Beck thanked the Police, Fire and Power departments. He said he hasn't received responses from the emails he sent to commissioners/mayor and feels if you're going to promote email, you should respond. He said he loves the mayor's meeting but suggests moving the time around to accommodate those who work. Mr. Beck said he believes the rules are necessary but told the commissioners to be careful not to go too far. He said the atmosphere that's been at these meetings isn't unique to Piqua. He has seen progress in the last couple of months.

Jeff Grimes mentioned a symposium at Edison. Jeff asked multiple questions that will be asked in the next agenda packet if not already answered. He said he takes offense to how the battery committee was treated. He said we need a special prosecutor.

Commissioner Hohman responded to the attorney that's going to be hired and said he is not limited to the first 5-6 hours that were discussed tonight. He discussed that the attorney would be looking at the environmental aspect of it and he feels it is safe. Commissioner Hohman said there has been a lot of talk that it's not safe and that's why he asked the Fire Committee if they wore protective gear since they've been doing all of the research. Nancy Roof responded that Commissioner Hohman was being inappropriate, and he asked whether they work protection as a gotcha moment.

**ADJOURNMENT** was at 9:15 p.m.



KRIS LEE, MAYOR

Passed: 7.30.2024

Attest: Melissa Kinney  
COMMISSION CLERK