

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hinds, Lee, Grissom and Vetter were present.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hinds, Lee, Grissom and Vetter were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes; and

To prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pearson presented the Procurement Month Proclamation along with the Procurement Professionals' Day Proclamation to Beverly Yount and Janelle Collier.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the January 17, 2023, regular Commission Meeting

Resolution no. R-17-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

Resolution no. R-18-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

Resolution no. R-19-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

Resolution no. R-20-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

Resolution no. R-21-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission

Resolution no. R-22-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Energy Board

Resolution no. R-23-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Utility Board

Resolution no. R-24-23

A resolution appointing a member to the Planning Commission

Park Board Annual Report

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that this annual report is a requirement in the Piqua Charter. The Park Board composed a report to summarize what took place in 2022 in the parks and includes recommendations in the future of Piqua City Parks.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if this report will be posted on the City's website page, to which Amy replied yes. Commissioner Hinds commented that this is a wonderful report to utilize and thanked the Park Board for their commitment. She also asked if all meeting minutes are posted on the City's website as well, to which Amy replied yes. Mayor Pearson then announced the

names of the new board members and thanked them for their participation. She also announced that there are still several board and committee openings available for others to get involved.

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

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. R-1-23 (Tabled)

A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with Local Union 252, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO-CIC (Firefighters)

Introduction: Catherine Bogan announced that both firefighter unions have wrapped up their contract negotiations. This particular contract includes the firefighters, paramedics & EMT staff and will be in effect until December 31, 2025.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to untable Resolution No. R-1-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and Resolution No. R-1-23 was untabled.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to approve Resolution No. R-1-23 and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All approved and Resolution No. R-1-23 was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-11-23

A resolution of appreciation for the public service of Brian T. George as a City employee

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee worked with Brian and said he was a hard worker. He hopes that Brian enjoys his retirement and thanked him for his 25 years of service to Piqua as a police officer.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve Resolution No. R-11-23 and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All approved and Resolution No. R-11-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-12-23

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with Local Union 252, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO-CLC (Fire Officers)

Introduction: Catherine Bogan said that this new agreement includes the Command staff and will be in effect until December 31, 2025.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

Action taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve Resolution No. R-12-23 and seconded by Commissioner Hinds. All approved and Resolution No. R-12-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-13-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Statewide Turf Equipment for the purchase of two used greens mowers for Echo Hills Golf Course

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that this purchase would allow for the replacement of older equipment at the golf course. Currently we are working with Hampton Golf to develop a 5 and 10 year Equipment Replacement Plan. In the meantime, we have 2 greens mowers whose repair costs exceed any usefulness of this equipment. Due to supply issues and in order to be economical, we have found 2 greens mowers that are older but with fewer hours that should be useful for the next 4-5 years.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds stated that she liked the estimates given by Bev Yount and Kirt Huemmer to compare prices and hours of equipment. She also trusts Kirt Huemmer's recommendation. Mayor Pearson asked if the old mowers would be sold. Ms. Welker said that the City will sell these for approximately \$8-10K.

Public Comments: None

Action taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to approve Resolution No. R-13-23 and seconded by Commissioner Grissom. All approved and Resolution No. R-13-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-14-23

A resolution authorizing a Capital Improvement Pass Through Grant Agreement for the Piqua Downtown Riverfront Improvements Project

Introduction: Paul Oberdorfer said that the Ohio General Assembly authorized this grant for \$150K in funds with no local match. This is the second appropriation from the State budget for the Lock 9 project. He extended his thanks to Senator Huffman's office for helping with this grant.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Pearson asked if this will help complete Phase I of the Lock 9 project, to which Mr. Oberdorfer replied yes.

Public Comments: None

Action taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve Resolution No. R-14-23 and seconded by Commissioner Hinds. All approved and Resolution No. R-14-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-15-23

A resolution authorizing the lease of existing surface parking lot improvements occupying Parcels N44-001890, N44-001330, N44-001340, N44-001320, N44-001390, N44-250046, N44-001860 and N44-001870, and the construction of surface parking lot improvements on Parcel N44-250088 for public parking

Introduction: Paul Oberdorfer said this includes the parking lot adjacent to Park National Bank, including 11 future parking spaces. The City would also be responsible for the general maintenance of this parking lot.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee inquired about signage for these parking spaces. Mr. Oberdorfer said that signs would be provided, including Handicap parking as well. Mayor Pearson asked if this included snow removal, which Mr. Oberdorfer said it would. He said that the City would also provide trash containers here. Commissioner Grissom likes this resolution, as it provides convenience for the Public and the City's gains desirable parking spaces. Commissioner Hinds agreed that this is much needed and a great option for the City.

Public Comments: None

Action taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Grissom to approve Resolution No. R-15-23 and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All approved and Resolution No. R-15-23 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-16-23

A resolution authorizing the lease of existing surface parking lot improvements occupying Parcels N44-001310 and N44-001900 for public parking

Introduction: Paul Oberdorfer said this includes the parking lot of Winan's administration facility across from the Crooked Handle Brewing Company on Main Street. This would be the same arrangement as the previous resolution with Park National Bank.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Action taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve Resolution No. R-16-23 and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All approved and Resolution No. R-16-23 was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Lewis expressed her concern with the Prosecutor in regards to prosecuting misdemeanors and criminals. She claims that he has “dropped the ball” on misdemeanor charges against sex offenders in Piqua. She is concerned for the safety of the women and children of Piqua.

Eva Silvers reiterated Leslie’s comment that kids in Piqua should be safe. Eva is concerned about 2 sex offenders staying at the Bethany Center and using that address as their place of residence. Commissioner Lee recommended that Eva contact the Miami County Sheriff Office. Commissioner Vetter inquired and found out that if someone stays at a location for 3 or more nights, that can be used as a residential address. He just had a meeting today with the director of the Bethany Center, who is aware of this problem and wants to improve this situation. Commissioner Vetter pointed out a need for a program in the county for sex offenders. Commissioner Hinds and Lee both announced that grants are available for the Bethany Center. Eva said that Piqua should focus on the youth of Piqua and protect them.

Clinton Kellis spoke of his dissatisfaction with the Prosecutor due to a lack of communication. He was upset that a Marsy letter was not mailed to his home. Frank Patrizio responded that the Marsy letter was hand delivered by a police officer.

Roland Sourmail would like for the City to consider making changes to the car port statue in the Code of Ordinances. He also provided pictures to Mayor Pearson to show houses in his neighborhood that are in poor condition. Commissioner Lee told Roland that they will look into the car port issue at the next Code Piqua meeting.

Larry Hamilton wanted to pay tribute to Black History Month. Using an agenda from “Move to Amend,” he gave a brief history of racial prejudice in America and invited the public to engage in several Black History events happening this month, including at Edison State Community College and the Piqua Public Library. Commissioner Lee thanked Larry for making everyone aware.

Danielle Drieling inquired as to what the plans are for land purchased by the City for developmental purposes. Paul said that there is a list that will be posted in the near future as part of PIC and currently consists of 24 properties.

Russ Fashner stated that the purpose of these meetings is for citizens to address the 5 City Commissioners, not other city staff. Commissioner Lee replied that is incorrect, as it is a business meeting. Russ complained about the City’s snow plow trucks 2 weeks ago during a Winter storm. He said that 5 plow trucks were all in 1 area of town, they did not separate, and they went up a hill with the blades dropped. Mr. Oberdorfer responded that our Snow Removal Program needs an overhaul. He said that with the new Assistant City Manager Amy Welker, there will be more structure in place with a plan next Winter for sure. Commissioner Grissom commented that it also will be available on the GIS. Commissioner Lee expressed concern as to why 5 trucks would follow the same route and drop blades with dry road conditions. Mr. Oberdorfer said that there is supposed be a treatment plan in place as well for salt dropping. Commissioner Vetter added that the Street Sweeper Program is also inadequate, to which Mr. Oberdorfer replied that it will also be on a new plan. He reminded everyone that the new GIS

will define the routes, so all employees and citizens will know when and where for snow and other events.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer reminded citizens to sign up for Smart Hub online. This will allow residents to track their usage of utilities and to easily make payments. He also encouraged residents to sign up for City notifications online via the City's website page to stay informed.

Commissioner Vetter asked about the signage program. Mr. Oberdorfer responded that there is currently no program set up, but that it is in the process now of implementation. This will eventually include the GIS mapping as well.

Commissioner Vetter inquired about the trash problem on Seminole Way due to construction. Mr. Oberdorfer said that the Planning Department is working with the developer directly to correct this problem.

Commissioner Lee asked about the trash issue behind Kroger. Amy Welker responded that Code Enforcement has contacted the businesses around that area to do a clean-up, and they have committed to take care of it. She will follow up with Code Enforcement.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lee – He wants everyone to celebrate and acknowledge Black History Month, as there is a lot of black history right here in Piqua. He said that the Urban Chicken ordinance is moving along and that the City needs to address the concerns brought up this evening. He also reminded all to be careful in the winter weather and announced that the next Community Diversity Meeting is Tuesday, February 14th at 4 pm.

Commissioner Grissom – He thanked all board members and volunteers. He reminded everyone of the Work Session next Tuesday, February 14th. There will be discussion on the updates to Code Piqua, how the Commission is structured, and how to increase the community's engagement.

Commissioner Hinds – She thanked Brian George for his faithful service as a Piqua Police Officer.

Commissioner Vetter – He announced that there is an AARP tax service available at the local mall, noting that the service does have income and age criteria. He thanked Diana Tamplin for her help getting his Microsoft 365 Outlook email account working for him. He added that a good citizen is persistent, expressing one's opinions.

Mayor Pearson – She extended thanks for all of the new Board members and congratulated Brian George on his retirement. She also announced that the next Town Hall meeting will be on February 23rd and will cover what development is going on in Piqua currently.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:50 p.m.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Grissom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.