

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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 5:33 pm

**ROLL CALL**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6:27 pm

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

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the April 4, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2-23 (3<sup>rd</sup> Reading)**

An ordinance to repeal Title XV: Land Usage of the Code of Ordinances and adopt Title XV: Development Code, in association with the Code Piqua Project

Introduction: City Planner Kyrsten French reminded the Commission that if approved, the timeline for this ordinance would take effect in 30 days. Per the Commission's request, Miss French added an

amendment to the ordinance prohibiting rock quarries within the city limits. She said that mining was added in Chapter 3.14 as a prohibited use within the corporate limits of Piqua.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to adopt the amendment and Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion. All were in favor to adopt this amendment to Ordinance No. O-2-23.

Law Director Frank Patrizio wanted to verify that the penalty was included in the amendment as well, to which Miss French confirmed that it was included.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to approve the amended ordinance and Commissioner Grissom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **ORDINANCE NO. O-3-23 (3<sup>rd</sup> Reading)**

An ordinance to adopt revisions of Chapter 90: Animals to permit backyard chickens

Introduction: Kyrsten French said that she provided details at the previous City Commission meeting and that GIS mapping would be available soon for information on subdivisions.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee said that it is important that people have a say in their government. He said he is always listening to the citizens and heard comments on both sides of the issue.

Commissioner Grissom said that he appreciated both views, as he received numerous calls from citizens with a lot of feedback.

Commissioner Hinds commented that she received more calls on this particular issue than anything else in her 8 years of service on Commission.

Mayor Pearson reiterated that she received many calls on both sides of the issue as well.

Commissioner Vetter suggested other alternatives, such as a chicken cooperative for those interested in owning chickens or purchasing fresh eggs at a local farm nearby.

Public Comment: Gary Koenig at 5 Peregrine Place requested that the Commission vote no, as he predicts many neighborly problems such as clucking, odor, diseases, rats and other issues if backyard chickens are permitted.

Alysha Richardson of 630 Manier Avenue expressed her support for backyard chickens in the City, citing benefits such as fresh eggs, sustainability, pest control, and chickens being just like other pets.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to vote on the ordinance and Commissioner Grissom seconded this motion. Commissioner Lee voted yah; Commissioners Grissom, Hinds, Vetter, and Mayor Pearson voted nay. The ordinance was defeated.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R-59-23**

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with M&P Farms

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that she was approached by Michelle Perry and Patrick Kleman to use the garden space at Pitsenbarger Park as an incubator space to grow flowers for a potential new business. Miss Welker said the lease will be for \$10 for the first year. The owners of M&P Farms would like to explore both wholesale and retail options for this new floral business.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds inquired if the City could adjust for an increase in utility cost next year if necessary, to which Miss Welker replied yes. Commissioner Hinds expressed her support of this endeavor.

Commissioner Lee commented that he likes the garden space being used, as opposed to lying dormant for the season.

Public Comment: None

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-60-23**

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with the Piqua Lady Braves Softball Organization

Introduction: Amy Welker explained that this agreement involves a youth softball select league. There has not been a formal agreement in the past, but there was a Memorandum of Understanding last year with this group. The Piqua Lady Braves desire a separate lease now for Upper Mote Park.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if the City would provide water, and Miss Welker replied that maintenance of the field for dragging may require a water tank at times. Commissioner Vetter also asked why the City buys the bases, to which Miss Welker said that the City provides certain items and also said that this field is open for public use as well at other times.

Commissioner Hinds asked if liability insurance was required for all sports leagues. Frank Patrizio responded that the City requires it for all sports leagues and that the amount will need to be increased at renewal in 3 years. Commissioner Hinds commented that all leagues need to prepare for that increase.

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-61-23**

A resolution authorizing the lease of city-owned real estate

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing announced that local entrepreneur Tom Lillicrap would like to lease the property at 122 W. High Street as an incubator space for a new business venture. The lease would include a monthly rental fee of \$1,200 including utilities. Mr. Schmiesing said this will be a good fit for this area.

Prospective tenant Tom Lillicrap informed the Commission of his new business venture of rolled ice cream. He also plans to offer Italian Ice and edible cookie dough, with possibly adding sandwiches at a later date.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds praised Mr. Lillicrap for loving Piqua and doing so much in the community.

Commissioner Lee noted his appreciation for the investment in the community and wants this space to be utilized.

Public Comment: None

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-62-23**

A resolution authorizing participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Cooperative Purchasing Program

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing explained that this resolution relates to the Annual Pavement Preservation Plan and targets streets with a rating of high need. This plan will concentrate on geographical areas, meaning entire neighborhoods will reap the benefits of resurfacing, along with a variety of other applications, such as milling and asphalt placement. He said this will allow for leverage of the state's bid purchasing power, and his department is in the process now of putting the bid packet together for the next City Commission meeting.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee asked if locations for this year's plan were posted yet for the public to view. Mr. Schmiesing stated that the map has been created, so locations will be posted soon. Targeted areas include Candlewood, South Street to Manier, Gordon to McKinley, South Main Street, Hemm Road, Wood Street and Washington.

Commissioner Vetter was curious if this program would include other items as well, such as vehicle purchases. Mr. Schmiesing replied that this purchasing cooperative can be used for the next 2 years for any services made available via the state bid process.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve the resolution and Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Humerickhouse of 1800 Amherst Avenue commended the Commission for voting down the ordinance to permit backyard chickens.

The owner of Crooked Handle Brewing Company Jeff Pedro thanked everyone for the welcome and support of his new restaurant. He said that he is counting on the Lock 9 Project to proceed, as he has a genuine passion for area businesses and wants to see the City succeed long-term.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds reiterated her support of Lock 9 coming to fruition, as she has been a part of its discussion for the past 8 years.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Paul Oberdorfer provided a reminder that the deadline for tax filing is tonight at midnight. He encouraged citizens to utilize the RITA website for easy filing and for those who received a letter for the Amnesty program to contact the Finance Department. He also noted that the City has collected \$55,000 in Amnesty funds to date.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Mayor Pearson recently attended the Riverway Summit in Sidney, along with City employees Aaron Morrison and Derrick Pearson and Mainstreet Piqua's Lorna Swisher. She enjoyed the architectural tours downtown and the interesting conversations around riverfront developments. She is excited that Piqua will be hosting next year's event.

Commissioner Vetter reminded everyone of the Clean Up Day happening on May 11<sup>th</sup> at Pitsenbarger Park and Mote Park. He thanked the Code Compliance Office regarding a recent report showing that a majority of 1,800 complaints had been resolved, including several demolitions of dilapidated properties. He mentioned that a new first-time homebuyer project is in the works that he is excited about as well.

Commissioner Lee said he was sorry that the chicken ordinance did not pass, as he feels that people are missing out on an opportunity to have chickens. He said that he respects the voice of the people and appreciates the democratic process. He reminded citizens to be vigilant of bike riders and to be neighborly.

Commissioner Hinds announced a special Bike Piqua event this Thursday at Crooked Handle Brewing Co. with live music. She also encouraged citizens to celebrate Earth Day this Saturday by going outdoors.

Commissioner Grissom said he respects both perspectives regarding the chicken debate and that most feedback he received was in opposition. He also wanted to clarify the process for a violation. Frank Patrizio briefly went over the process, which includes filing a complaint with the Code Compliance Office first, then filing a first-degree misdemeanor in court if necessary. Commissioner Grissom also announced that next week is National Laboratory Professionals Week.

## **ADJOURNMENT** at 7:30 p.m.

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