

**MINUTES
REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

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

Roll Call: Mayor Pearson, Commissioners Hinds, Lee, and Vetter were present. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Hinds to excuse Commissioner Grissom. All approved and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Patrizio, Law Director, asked that the Commission act upon a Resolution to appoint a substitute Clerk of Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. R-103-22

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DIANA LYNN TAMPLIN AS SUBSTITUTE CLERK OF COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PIQUA

Commissioner Hinds moved to adopt the Resolution and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All approved and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Resolution adopted.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to enter into Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vetter. Motion carried unanimously. Roll call was taken and Commissioners Hinds, Lee, Vetter and Mayor Pearson voted in favor of adjourning to Executive session. The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. Executive session was: To prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pearson presented Rebecca Sousek, Executive Director of Piqua Compassion Network with a Proclamation. Mayor Pearson read the proclamation and Rebecca Sousek recognized the Board members and said they are a wonderful cross section of members. Director Sousek said that after 15 years they are still going strong and said that they started at the Bethany Center and are now in the back of West Minster Presbyterian Church. They added a Faith Based Recovery program 5 years ago and have some awesome compassion projects coming up. Commissioner Hinds was a prior member and said that it is great to see how it is going.

PRESENTATION

Keith GunderKline, Executive Director for Miami County CAC and Mandy Theis, Landlord Liaison were present. Chris Schmiesing, who is on their board, thought they could explain more about their agency and answer any questions the Commission may have. Keith said that they are a dual agency with Miami Metropolitan Housing Authority and administer Federal and State dollars. The CAC has up to 985 accounts on Section 8 housing. They also work closely with Rebecca Sousek from the Piqua Compassion Network.

Commissioner Hinds asked where they have housing in Piqua, and Keith said Washington Commons and they oversee the vouchers for rent assistance through other rentals. Commissioner Hinds said that she has heard that there are people coming from outside the county and applying for rent assistance. Mandy Theis said that people can apply here even if they don't live in Miami County. They do so because Miami County has the shortest waiting list, which is about 6 months. Commissioner Hinds asked if they can then take the voucher anywhere in the county to which Mandy said they can. Commissioner Hinds asked if they have the ability to give preference to Miami County residents over someone living in Cincinnati or Columbus. Keith said the wait time is short for all who apply. Commissioner Hinds said it is great education.

Commissioner Vetter asked if they had a relationship with Wood Street Lofts. Mandy said they work closely with them, but the landlord is responsible for the day to day. Mandy is the landlord liaison if issues arise and will look at the contract that was signed but will also listen to tenants. Commissioner Lee asked if they talk to

the Police also, and Keith said that is on the edge of what they get involved with. Commissioner Hinds said that when the Wood Street Lofts was presented to the Commission, they said they'd provide Job Readiness and Social Work but it seems like it's not happening. Mandy said she never heard that. Keith said it is very typical for this type of developer to provide these services but has no idea if it is happening. Commissioner Vetter said he volunteered to be on the Wood Street Lofts board when the developer first presented to the Commission, but no board was ever established. Commissioner Hinds reiterated that it was sold to us this way but said to Keith and Mandy that CAC manages Washington Commons and she doesn't think there are any problems there. She thanked Keith and Mandy for coming and presenting to the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the August 16, 2022 Regular Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Lee moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Consent Agenda approved.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-88-22 (tabled)

A resolution accepting annexation of 662.035 acres and 1.605 acres of land located in Washington Township to the City of Piqua.

Mayor Pearson said this Resolution is tabled until September 20, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-99-22

A resolution to establish the Piqua Small Business Grant Program.

Chris Schmiesing presented the Resolution and said establishing a Small Business Grant Program is a result of the receipt of ARPA funds which allowed the City of free up some funds in the general fund. The program will be allocated \$350,000 during the 2022 and 2023 budget to provide matching grants. The Development Department has been working with Main Street Piqua also.

Commissioner Vetter asked if \$350,000 would be allotted in 2022 and an additional amount in 2023 to which Chris Schmiesing said No, \$350,000 is the total that would be available.

Commissioner Hinds asked if the funds could be used for inside building renovations too and Chris said yes. Chris Schmiesing said there are less strings attached because it is funded by local dollars and will be easier for downtown businesses to obtain the funds. Commissioner Lee asked when the funds will be available. Chris said that he plans to have introduction meetings in September and have an application period in October and November although the exact period has not been defined. Chris Schmiesing said after the applicants have been prioritized they will be brought back to commission for final approval.

Commissioner Lee addressed the audience and said some of the business owners in attendance should take advantage of this grant program. Commissioner Hinds said she is glad it will be easier for businesses and that it's not as clunky. Commissioner Vetter asked how far eligibility extended and Chris Schmiesing said to Main Street and surrounding areas.

Mayor Pearson asked if there were any citizen comments and Melony Walker, 431 Main Street, asked if they had to follow prevailing wages. Chris Schmiesing said prevailing wages do not come into play because it is a local program.

Commissioner Lee moved to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Vetter. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Resolution approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-100-22

A resolution to levy assessments to pay for the cost of nuisance abatement.

Chris Schmiesing said this is the time of the year to certify assessments to the county. The auditor will spread the assessment over two years and if not paid it will transfer with the property.

Mayor Pearson asked if there were any citizen comments and there were none.

Mayor Pearson moved for adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Lee. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Resolution approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-101-22

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Greve Chrysler for the purchase of three Dodge Durango pursuit vehicles.

Rick Byron asked for authorization for the purchase of three Dodge Durangos. He said this was part of the ongoing fleet replacement program. Rick said in previous years this wouldn't start until March or April but ever since the Covid pandemic it has been opening earlier. Rick said he has been in touch with all dealerships and none could get new vehicles. Greve Chrysler reached back out to the Police Department two weeks ago and said there is a very short window that they can order vehicles but you must have a purchase order in place. Commissioner Lee asked how Chief Byron felt about Durangos and Rick said he has had nothing but a great experience with them. Rick said pursuit vehicles have nothing to do with the engine size.

Commissioner Hinds asked about the special equipment that had to be put on them but local companies could bid on them. Rick said that he reached out to local companies even after Greve Chrysler contacted them. Rick said the local companies couldn't order them. Mayor Pearson asked what the Police Department does with the old vehicles and he said first they offer them to other City departments and if no one needs them, they'll sell them on egov.

Commissioner Lee moved to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Vetter. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Resolution approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-102-22

A resolution establishing "trick or treat/beggars' night" in the City of Piqua.

Mayor Pearson read an article stating that the Miami County Council set the last Thursday of October as Trick or Treat night for Miami County as part of a 5 year schedule.

Commissioner Vetter moved to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pearson declared the Resolution approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pearson asked if any citizens wanted to address the City Commission regarding agenda items, issues, or to provide information. Comments are requested to be limited to five (5) minutes and specific questions should be addressed to the City Manager's office.

Brandon Heindl, 3118 Seminole Way, said that he has called the City several times about the mess left by contractors in Indian Ridge. Commissioner Lee asked who Mr. Heindl has talked to. Brandon said he talked to Aaron and left a message on the City Manager's (assistant's) phone. Brandon said there are pallets, concrete and other trash piled there and he'd like to see something done because it's an eye sore. Mr. Heindl said that other people are being fined. City Manager Paul Oberdorfer said the City has been working on trying to get this cleaned up and the developer is out of the country. He asked Mr. Heindl to give the City a little more time because we are working on it.

Joe Wilson, 211 W Greene Street, wanted to bring awareness to the Neighbors helping Neighbors initiative he's overseeing. Joe said that the City helped with a house on Roosevelt and the homeowner was very happy. He thanked Paul Oberdorfer and Kyrsten French for their support along with the other city workers including the Mayor. He has a second house lined up on Water Street and then a house on Ash and Park which needs weeding and paint. Joe said he could use volunteers and if anyone has an interest to contact him or the Mayor.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer said that there will be paving on September 12th on State Route 36E between Scott Drive and Looney Road. He said the traffic will be down to one lane. Resurfacing will take place at night. The anticipated end date will be October 15.

Paul said that the waterways are still being reviewed and to keep up-to-date go to Piquadamstudy.com or sign up for Piqua Alerts.

City Manager Oberdorfer reminded citizens that school started today and to watch out for the kids. People sometimes forget to look for kids over the summer.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Lee said to watch out for kids now that school is back in session. He said that some schools let out a little later due to traffic. Commissioner Lee congratulated Piqua Indians football team for beating Troy. He said that is the 66th win. He said he had a bet with Troy's Mayor Oda that she has to wear a Piqua Indians shirt if Piqua wins. They met at Elite today and Mayor Oda picked out her Piqua shirt. Commissioner Lee said he is so glad that the Indians are so good and protect him from having to wear a Troy Trojans shirt. Commissioner Lee also said he would post about Trick or Treat on his social media page.

Commissioner Vetter reminded citizens that it is not appropriate to park on the curb or sidewalk yet he sees people doing it. He said that you need to call the non-emergency number if you see a car parked on sidewalk. Commissioner Vetter said that there continues to be a problem with trash containers being left out for more than 24 hours. Commissioner Vetter said that he had a caller ask him how to explain to his granddaughter what the foul language on a flag meant. Commissioner Vetter said just because you can do something doesn't mean it's right. He also recommends citizens watch the Frantz pond presentation. Commissioner Vetter said if you see an abandoned vehicle to call the police. Lastly, Johnston Farm is having a Fall Celebration on October 1st and it should be a nice fall event for everyone to attend.

Commissioner Hinds attended the Piqua / Troy football game and said it is great that no one has scored against the Indians. She said she heard the Schmiesing boys mentioned not only at that game but at a college game. There is an upcoming 8th Arts Reception at Apple Tree Gallery. Artists come from all over. The 15th Steak Fry is on September 15th. There are some great auction items and you have a chance to talk with

business owners. Commissioner Hinds said it is wonderful to see how Piqua Compassion Network has grown and she sees some faces from the very beginning. Commissioner Hinds thanked Piqua Compassion Network for their 15 years of service. She also thanked Joe Wilson for making our community better with Neighbors helping Neighbors.

Mayor Pearson said with the Piqua Compassion Network being present she simply has a quote: "We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone."

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Lee to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hinds. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.