

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 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, and Vetter were present. A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to excuse Commissioner Grissom and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:32 pm

ROLL CALL

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider confidential information related to economic development as further defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) or as amended.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:17 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 March 7, 2023, regular Commission Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. R-49-23

A resolution appointing Mary Tolman to the Tree Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-50-23

A resolution appointing Randi Simon-Serey to the Tree Committee

RESOLUTION NO. R-51-23

A resolution appointing Richard (Gene) Hill to the Golf Advisory Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-52-23

A resolution appointing Michael Mohr to the Golf Advisory Board

Mayor Pearson commented that she appreciates the dedication of the new and current board and committee members and thanks them for their time and service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds 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-1-23 (2nd Reading)

A resolution establishing the manner in which ordinances will be available for public inspection

Introduction: Amy Welker said this resolution refers to the official publication of legislation to the City's website. The local newspaper will only be published twice per week, which limits the timeliness of information sharing. Currently, legislation is published on the City's website page, and this resolution will make it the official process.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-2-23 (1st 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: Chris Schmiesing explained that this project has been several years in the making, as the development code has needed updated development standards since 2007. He said this is a forward-looking document that will utilize current best practices instead of outdated standards. Mr. Schmiesing then asked City Planner Kyrsten French to speak, as she has been instrumental in this project.

Miss French provided a notebook of "Exhibit A" of the Development Code for all Commissioners to review. She informed them that the Code Piqua Project has been available on the city's website for several months now, along with links to the GIS maps showing the new zoning districts. Miss French said that the new code will be one unified development code, including adoption of the Ohio Residential Code and the Ohio Building Code. She has had many conversations with both citizens and developers. Miss French said that the effective date of the new code would be May 18, 2023, assuming it is voted on April 18, 2023.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hinds commended the City Planner and the Development Department for all of their work and time on this project, as she believes it will help the city move forward.

Public Comment: Joshua Blackshire of 1301 Spruce Street, Troy, spoke on behalf of Sherry Development. He said that Mike Sherry does support the Code Piqua Project overall, but he wants the issue of high impact usage changed to explicitly state that high impact use in the city limits is prohibited.

ORDINANCE NO. O-3-23 (1st Reading)

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

Introduction: Miss French presented revised standards for allowing backyard chickens in the city limits after the Planning Commission had requested significant changes at the last meeting. She discussed some of these requirements, including prohibiting roosters, a limit of 6 chickens, no slaughter of chickens on the property, elevated covered coops, and attached chicken runs. Residents will be required to apply for a permit prior to obtaining backyard chickens and will have to submit a site plan as well.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee commented that there are a lot of regulations to own and maintain chickens, and he thanked Miss French and the Planning Commission for their due diligence on this matter.

Commissioner Vetter inquired as to who would inspect properties with chickens. Miss French responded that the Code Compliance Officers in the Development Office would be responsible for this.

Mayor Pearson then asked Miss French to discuss the restricted covenants that would affect the allowance of backyard chickens. Miss French said that many subdivisions in Piqua, mostly those built after 1960, restrict the allowance of backyard chickens already. She is currently working on a list of these restricted covenants, as it is quite large.

Commissioner Hinds requested a list be provided of which areas and subdivisions are included so that citizens can know ahead of time if their neighborhood is restricted or not. Miss French will provide a comprehensive list soon and is working on digitizing this information in the near future.

Commissioner Vetter expressed his concern about the manure from the chickens. He asked if the manure will be placed in the trash carts, to which Miss French replied yes. She said the manure and bedding must be put inside a plastic bag, which can then be disposed of via the trash carts.

Public Comment: Paige Stemen of 1501 Madison Avenue voiced her support for backyard chickens in the city limits. She believes that the city should also allow free range of the chickens and said that the city should consider giving the manure to local farmers.

Gary Koenig at 5 Peregrine Place has many concerns about backyard chickens in the city, particularly the health issues that can arise, such as salmonella and Ohio Valley Fever. He believes that this would cause a noise problem and reduce property values as well.

Joe Wilson, who resides at 211 W. Greene Street, advised the Commission to be sure this does not threaten the general health and welfare of our community. His concerns are health related to the spread of diseases, the odor, flies, rodents and attracting predators such as coyote and raccoons.

Pamela Hawes of 307 Cleveland Street expressed her desire for chickens in the city, as she lived on a farm 10 years ago and wants to have them again. She believes that most people who have chickens would clean up properly.

Thomas Hohman at 1803 Nicklin Avenue gave his opinion that this issue is really not a big concern, as there are lots of risks to humans. He mentioned other animal risks as well, like geese, birds, and stray cats.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Wilson of 211 W. Greene Street invited the public to attend an informational meeting on Monday, March 27th for the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program. He encouraged people to get involved and help others in need by finding out more at this upcoming meeting at the YWCA.

Danielle Drieling at 1038 Nicklin Avenue questioned why the public was not notified when a manhole caused Gill and Walker Streets to be closed for 5 days. She said there were no notifications online or via door hangers from the city. City Manager Paul Oberdorfer responded that he would look into this situation.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Oberdorfer announced that there are 3 open positions for Piqua Boards and Committees. He encouraged citizens to apply online. He also reminded residents to sign up for Smart Hub and Piqua alerts and notifications to stay informed.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mayor Pearson – She announced that Piqua was awarded the 2022 “Tree City USA” distinction by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Commissioner Vetter – He recommended that citizens who have utility cost concerns attend Energy Board and Utility Board meetings to learn how utilities work. He is thankful that the price of eggs has decreased recently and advised that a good citizen means being courteous to others.

Commissioner Lee – He said that he personally will not have backyard chickens, but he wants the opportunity for people in Piqua to have them. He asked Mr. Blackshire to reach out to him to discuss further what he commented on earlier. He advised everyone to be careful as warmer weather arrives and more people are outdoors.

Commissioner Hinds – She reminded everyone to be more aware as more people will be outside in the Spring weather. She announced that the Piqua High School musical is this weekend and tickets are available online to purchase. She also announced a Quarter Auction at Knights of Columbus on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:08 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.