

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Piqua City Commission met at 5 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.

**APPOINTMENT OF FOURTH WARD COMMISSIONER**

The two candidates for Fourth Ward Commissioner, Thomas Hohman and Rhett Dziech, each gave a brief statement to the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to vote for Thomas Hohman for appointment as Fourth Ward Commissioner and seconded by Mayor Pearson. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-121-23**

A resolution appointing a 4th Ward Commissioner for the City of Piqua

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to amend Sections 1 and 2 of this resolution to list Thomas Hohman as the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward City Commissioner and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Hinds to adopt Amended Resolution No. R-121-23 and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Law Director Frank Patrizio performed the Oath of Office Ceremony for the newly-appointed Fourth Ward Commissioner Thomas Hohman.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 5:11 pm

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session is to prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6 pm

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

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**PRESENTATION**

Community Impact and Engagement Manager Chris Mackey of the Miami Valley Big Brothers Big Sisters said that this organization serves over 400 youth in Preble, Greene, Miami, and Montgomery counties. Mr. Mackey encouraged citizens to become mentors, as it is a rewarding experience for both the young people and the volunteers.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the October 17, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting

**RESOLUTION NO. R-122-23**

A resolution appointing a member to the Park Board

Mayor Pearson announced that Juli Smith has been appointed to the Park Board as a new member to fill a vacancy.

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 was carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Simmons introduced himself as the new Ward 2 City Commissioner effective in the new year. He stated that he is a "big First Amendment guy" and asked the Commission to table Resolution No. R-126-23 regarding a Rental Advisory Board until January 2024.

Lisa Dotson said that she was diagnosed with cancer four years ago and is now questioning if she was exposed to toxic materials at the old water plant. She also inquired about the meeting next week with RAPCA and the OEPA.

Chuck Starrett requested that Resolution No. R-126-23 be tabled. He also would like for paper copies of the Agenda provided at these meetings and expressed his disapproval of Roland Sourmail's driveway gravel situation.

Alisha Lange asked about testing of the City's surface water, soil, bike path, and fish and other living organisms in Swift Run Lake. Mr. Oberdorfer advised that she ask the OEPA and RAPCA experts at the public meeting next week on November 15, 2023. Ms. Lange also announced that Fox 45 News will have a story about the old water plant on November 14, 2023.

Melanie Walker stated that there are many good things happening in Piqua, citing the Piqua Arts Council's second annual Bourbon Affair event last weekend and the annual Holiday Horse Parade this coming weekend.

Diana Parke expressed her opinion that one of the primary responsibilities of the city's leadership team is to provide clean water to the citizens. She asked what measures were taken at the old water plant to protect the citizens' water supply. Mr. Oberdorfer responded that the appropriate permits were pulled, and that she should contact the state agencies OEPA and also RAPCA who had oversight for further information.

Debbie Stein inquired if Mr. Oberdorfer was aware of the large burns taking place at the old water plant, to which Mr. Oberdorfer responded that the burns were permitted by the state agency who issued the permits.

Jeff Grimes asked the Commissioners how the ribbon-cutting ceremony for ESG went, to which Commissioner Hinds replied that it was not a ribbon-cutting ceremony but a site visit.

Kevin Jenkins questioned the Public Comment time limit of 5 minutes, to which Mr. Patrizio responded that Ordinance No. 30-15 establishes that all comments and questions are to be civil and respectful and limited to 5 minutes per person.

Greg Neves inquired about the dilapidated Red Roof Inn and demolition of the old water plant. Mr. Oberdorfer said that demolition of the old hotel should occur this Winter, and the expectation is for a National Chain restaurant and new hotel be built in its place. As for the old water plant, Mr. Oberdorfer responded that it will be very costly to demo, but the City plans to in the future with grant funds.

Dave Smith implored the Commissioners to be truthful to the citizens of Piqua, reminding them that their responsibility is to the citizens, not to City staff.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-111-23 (Postponed)**

A resolution approving an Investment Policy for the City of Piqua

Introduction: Mayor Pearson announced that this resolution will be postponed until the next City Commission Meeting on November 21, 2023.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-123-23**

A resolution of appreciation for the Public Service of Chad L. Kennedy as a City employee

Introduction: Mayor Pearson congratulated Chad Kennedy on his 24 years of service as Assistant Fire Chief with the City of Piqua.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee thanked Mr. Kennedy for his service, and Commissioner Hinds expressed her gratitude as well.

Public Comment: None

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-124-23**

A resolution authorizing the lease of 8620 North County Road 25A, Piqua

Introduction: Utilities Director Kevin Krejny explained that this resolution will extend the current lease at this location for another 2 years. Mr. Krejny said that the Underground Utilities team has been there the past 6 years, housing 10 employees and over 20 vehicles and pieces of equipment. He stated that this building is a good fit for the Underground Utilities team.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if there was a change in the cost, to which Mr. Krejny responded the monthly rent has an increase of 8 percent.

Public Comment: Alisha Lange requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited, to which the Commission responded that it was already recited when the meeting began at 5 pm.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-125-23**

A resolution authorizing purchase orders to Chemical Services, Inc., Greer Lime Company, Water Solutions Unlimited, Inc., Shannon Chemical Corporation, Air Products and Chemical and Miami Products & Chemical Company for the 2024 purchase of various water treatment chemicals

Introduction: Mr. Krejny stated that this is done every year for the annual renewal of chemicals needed to treat the City's water. A bid process is utilized to get the best costs for each chemical needed, and typically 5 or 6 local companies participate in the bid. Unfortunately, prices for chemicals have dramatically increased and the expected cost is up by \$8,500.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: Diana Parke asked if the City was using more chemicals now, to which Mr. Krejny replied no, the same amount is consistently used each year.

Greg Neves asked if research was done on the companies providing the chemicals. Mr. Krejny responded that the bid program is utilized every year to ensure that the best prices are chosen for each chemical.

Tammy Neves said that she worked in a spa last year and now has eye problems. Mr. Krejny recommended that she attend the meeting next week, as the OEPA can answer questions about the chemicals added to the water supply and what their requirements are for the City.

Jeff Grimes asked if the EPA requires the City to test for lithium in the water. Mr. Krejny replied not currently, but that there is a new statewide program starting in 2025 that will require testing of lithium.

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. R-126-23**

A resolution authorizing a Rental Advisory Board

Introduction: Commissioner Lee announced that he would like to put this resolution on hold for the time being, as citizens have expressed that they do not want the board created. He stated that this board would be comprised of citizens to help those in need before appearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: Debbie Stein asked that this resolution be revisited in January, to which Commissioner Lee replied yes, as it would give people a voice before going to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Oberdorfer presented a brief demonstration on the city website page of the new Public Works GIS mapping system. He shared how residents can view the leaf collection map to identify which zone they live in and what the current leaf pick-up status is for that zone. He pointed out the good dashboard information available to viewers as well. He announced that the Inclement Weather online resource is being built currently, and that it will eventually include a "live feed" of the snowplow trucks.

Mr. Oberdorfer then commented that it is difficult to put all of the information for citizens onto one website with easy access, and that a new Public Information Officer will help with the city's knowledge management aspect.

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hinds expressed her appreciation to those citizens who apply for boards and committees, and she welcomed Thomas Hohman to the Commission. She also announced that the annual Holiday Horse Parade will be held this Saturday evening.

Commissioner Lee had no comments.

Commissioner Vetter encouraged citizens to look at the new property maintenance case report on the city website page, acknowledged the Power Department for the good year they are having with lower rates, and said he continues to work on the next step to scheduling a fact-finding session with citizens

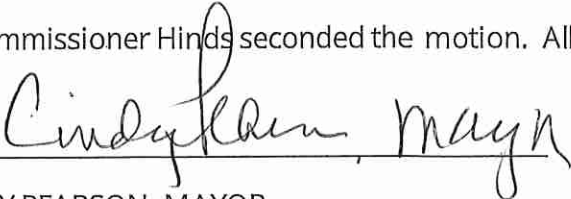
regarding Hance Pavilion. He also announced the ribbon-cutting ceremony this Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the new trail bridge south of the old power plant.

Commissioner Hohman said he is excited to take on his new role as 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Commissioner and encouraged citizens to attend the Public Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Piqua Plaza.

Mayor Pearson congratulated Chad Kennedy on his recent retirement, announced a Low Dam Removal open meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>, encouraged citizens to attend the Public Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and announced a lighting ceremony taking place Saturday evening before the horse parade.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 7:26 p.m

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

  
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CINDY PEARSON, MAYOR

Passed: 11.21.2023

Attest: Melissa Kinney

MELISSA KINNEY  
COMMISSION CLERK