

**PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 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 Hohman, Lee, and Vetter were present. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to excuse Commissioner Hinds due to being out of town. Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:32 pm

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hohman, Lee, 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 6:08 pm

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

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENTATION BY ECHO HILLS GOLF COURSE MANAGER PATRICK KIRKLAND

Patrick Kirkland introduced himself and said it was a great year. He had some aggressive goals and he met almost all of them. Patrick said that there was increased play, revenue, food offerings and a greater social media presence. There were some challenges with cart and course abuse, but he has implemented scanning driver's licenses when you rent a golf cart and placing volunteers throughout the course. He went over some of the events that had taken place and the course improvements. Patrick said it is one of the best courses in the area and is a great asset that the city should be proud of. A new feature that was added is that food can be ordered by a player and be delivered anywhere on the course. Next season Patrick would like the community to think of the golf course as a place to order food such as takeout pizza. A new membership is also being added.

Mayor Pearson thanked Patrick and asked if he offers lessons. Patrick said he offers lessons as time allows. He mentioned that he is going through the process of being PGA certified.

Commissioner Vetter asked how we handle schools playing at the course. Patrick said currently three schools play at Echo Hills and he will implement a \$2500.00 fee for each school, with Piqua having the priority. Commissioner Vetter asked if the commissioners could see the total expenses.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the November 7, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to move public comment to after new business. Mayor Pearson and Commissioner Vetter voted nay. Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Hohman voted yes. The motion was not passed.

Jeff Grimes asked if the golf course made money this year because if not, the swimming pool didn't make money and we closed it. Jeff said in 2011 the city started a Source Water Protection plan for the golf course, cemetery, and the airport. Jeff questioned how many chemicals were used. He also asked if the golf course made money in 2021 or 2022.

Eva Silvers said that she has been reading that a small group of people are causing damage and concern for new businesses. Eva said there must be trust. She said we are putting a new hotel in the same spot we are tearing one down. She said she has worked for three different hotels, and they were never more than half full. Eva said that she talked to Crooked Handle, and we made promises we can't keep. She said come January there's going to be change.

Chuck Starrett asked that public comment be moved to the end of the meeting. Chuck asked if the commissioners looked at the budget. He asked that the Commissioners hold off on voting for the new budget. Chuck said money is transferred out, but it never comes back. The citizens have a right. He asked that the commissioners think about what they do before they act.

Commissioner Hohman said this is just a first reading and there should be four more weeks of public comment before they vote.

Valerie Mullikan thanked Mayor Pearson for coming to the ribbon cutting of the Operation Veteran and Caregiver Support office. Valerie said all veterans suffer from a disability. She said people with disabilities don't feel comfortable crossing State Route 36. A person in a wheelchair may not be able to get to Lock 9 park and the city is doing a disservice. Ten percent of parking should be for people with disabilities. She said there is no van parking, and the city is failing because only 2% of our parking is designated for handicapped. Valerie said that she was at Pittsenbarger Park and witnessed a lady with a walker having to go through the grass to get to a shelter. Valerie said it is against the ADA and accessibility is a problem. She said we need to make Piqua better.

Mary Simmons commented that she is a US Marine and is 100% disabled. She said there are days when she can barely move. Mary said there is no area to get out of the car safely. On behalf of disabled veterans, we deserve better.

Paul Simmons asked who was responsible for the Open House. Paul Simmons said he was surprised that he had to wait in the lobby for the elevator. He ended up climbing three flights of stairs and the Open House seemed disinviting. Paul Simmons said he thinks we can do better.

Roland Sourmail said he talked to the owner at Crooked Handle and the owner said the city lied to him. Chris Schmiesing said that is not true. Roland said he can't see spending taxpayers' money to hire people who live outside of Piqua. Roland said the city is going to go bankrupt and asked how we are going to pay things back. He said he has been a business owner for 20 years. He said we can't keep up with the Jone's.

Diana Parke asked Brent Pohlschneider how many hours our first responders have trained at the training center. Brent said he doesn't have that number in front of him. Diane Parke said how many students from Bowling Green came through each year. She then asked Paul Oberdorfer who Piqua Energy Storage Research Group was. She gave the name of the owner. She said it was on the Federal EPA website. She asked if ESRG was ever on a MOU or a joint use agreement.

Alisha Lange addressed the Fire Chief. She recalled that the Fire Chief had said he was introduced to ESRG in Columbus, and she asked several questions in relation to the training name, date, who he talked to and then questions about the individual (from ESRG) himself. The Fire Chief asked Alisha to email him her questions.

Larry Hamilton informed citizens of black history and national heritage month and said the two are connected. Commissioner Hohman mentioned that there's a fantastic museum in Oxford if Larry ever got the chance to check it out. Larry Hamilton said that he doesn't live in Oxford, and we need to build one here.

Greg Neeves asked if Piqua Police ever did any pepper spray training at the training facility. Rick Byron said the Police Department uses the brick building adjacent to the old water plant. Greg Neeves asked if the Police Department ever did any burning at the training facility to which Chief Byron replied "no".

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. R-111-23 (POSTPONED)

A resolution approving an Investment Policy for the City of Piqua

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to untable R-111-23, and Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and R-111-23 was untabled.

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien said the passage of this resolution will allow us to invest funds.

Commissioners Comments: Mayor Pearson asked if the resolution is just for checks and balances, and it will maximize earnings. Jerry O'Brien said we are required to file an investment policy before investing funds.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve the resolution and Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. Mayor Pearson and Commissioner Lee voted in favor of the resolution and Commissioner Vetter voted Nay. Commissioner Hohman abstained from voting. The motion to pass the resolution failed.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. O-14-23 (Emergency)

An emergency ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio for the year 2023.

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien said that normally the request to reappropriate funds is passed at the last meeting of the year, but we could receive a citation from the auditor's office for being out of compliance.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman asked if there were particular departments that needed funds reappropriated. Jerry named Lock 9, Avero and Mainstreet adding that a lot of the expenses were already approved by commission and just need Commission's approval to clean up the allocation. Jerry said a payment is coming due to Springcreek Township. Commissioner Vetter asked if we were adding money to the golf course. Jerry replied "yes" but Amy added that we are also lowering the transfer to Golf by \$300,000. Paul Oberdorfer added that Jerry has identified areas where we aren't in compliance. In the future the finance department plans to come before Commission more often with adjustments that are needed, before we risk being out of compliance.

Commissioner Lee voiced his frustration that a citizen just asked a question if the golf course was making money and we said we didn't know yet. Paul Oberdorfer explained that we made a lot of improvements this year that need to be deducted from the final figures.

Commissioner Hohman suggested we look at the reappropriations needed every six months. He said the reappropriation Ordinance is being presented earlier this year but it's still an Emergency.

Public Comment: Valerie Mullikan asked how much we went over budget for Lock 9 in 2023. Paul said the engineer's estimate was assumed. This is very typical for these types of projects. Valerie said she understands because she has a master's degree in public administration. She said she is concerned about the return on investment. Valerie asked what private partnerships there's been for Lock 9. Paul Oberdorfer listed different economic projects that have happened, or that are in the works because of the Lock 9 project.

Jerry O'Brien said it is typical in government to set up a fund dedicated to a capital project fund.

Roland Sourmail referred to the presentation given on the golf course and said that there were only 171 memberships, yet we are a community of 20,000. It was explained that there are a lot of players that don't have memberships that pay each time they play.

Commissioner Hohman asked if the money was already spent, and we are just moving it around to cover and Jerry O'Brien replied yes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hohman to waive the 3-reading rule. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and a motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve O-14-23. Commissioner Hohman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. O-15-23 (1st Reading)

An ordinance to make appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio for the year 2024

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien noted that the city is required to pass the 2024 budget before the year end. This is a first reading and there will be a work session on November 28th with more in-depth information.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

Action taken: 1st Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-16-23 (1st Reading)

An ordinance amending Chapter 94 of the Piqua Code relating to the municipal golf course.

Introduction: Amy Welker said that revenue was up but with the capital improvements that were made a transfer was still needed. The transfer was reduced from \$400,000 to \$100,000. Amy Welker said sometimes you have to spend money to make money. Amy added it is the goal to make money, but other parks do not make money either. The golf course is a great amenity for the city. The rate adjustment requested keeps us in line with other courses and the golf advisory board recommends this rate increase.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

Action taken: 1st Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-17-23 (1st Reading)

An ordinance repealing schedule A of chapter 33 of the Piqua code and adopting a new Schedule A of chapter 33 of the Piqua code, relating to wages of certain municipal employees.

Introduction: Catherine Bogan explained that Schedule A covers all non-bargaining unit full-time employees. The new schedule would adjust the wages by 3% to keep in line with bargaining unit contracts.

Commissioners Comments: None

Public Comment: None

Action taken: 1st Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-18-23 (1ST Reading)

An ordinance repealing schedule A-1 of chapter 33 of the Piqua code and adopting a new Schedule A-1 of chapter 33 of the Piqua code, relating to wages of certain municipal employees.

Introduction: Catherine Bogan explained that Schedule A-1 covers part-time and seasonal employees. The state increased the minimum wage in 2024 and that increase is reflected on this schedule.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee asked if we have a dance fitness instructor. Catherine said not at this time, but it was decided to keep it on the wage schedule in hopes of adding one in the future. Commissioner Vetter commented that we would need a place to conduct lessons.

Public Comment: None

Action taken: 1st Reading

ORDINANCE NO. O-19-23 (1ST Reading)

An ordinance to amend Chapter 32 the Piqua code of ordinances.

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing said this ordinance is to combine boards that cover similar matters. He explained that Parks and Tree committees and the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals are very similar bodies, and it will be more effective to combine them.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if the tree committee has been informed. Chris Schmiesing said that some of the members are aware. Commissioner Lee questioned if an item went before the planning commission, would it go back to the same group of members for an appeal. Chris Schmiesing said the planning commission is looking at land use and plats then making recommendations to the city commission. No step is being eliminated; it's just being enhanced by making it one body. Commissioner Hohman said he may need to talk with Chris Schmiesing more to understand the process. Commissioner Vetter asked what the appeals process was after the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Chris Schmiesing said there would be no change and it would go to the Court of Common Pleas.

Public Comment: None

Action taken: 1st Reading

RESOLUTION NO. R-127-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Miami Valley Risk Management Association for purchase of insurance

Introduction: Catherine Bogan said the approval of this resolution will allow the partnership for property insurance to continue. The City of Piqua is in a pool of 21 cities and Catherine is on the board. Jerry O'Brien will be an alternate.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Vetter asked if the premium is increasing. Catherine responded that it is. Commissioner Lee asked if we shopped around. Catherine said she did not make a request for proposals but met with MVRMA and asked them to review the premium. Commissioner Hohman asked if it was in line with other cities. Catherine said it is formula based and is in line.

Public Comment: None

Action taken: Mayor Pearson made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. R-128-23

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Springcreek Township Board of Township Trustees

Introduction: Jerry O'Brien said this resolution allows the city to pay property tax to Springcreek Township.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Hohman asked how much longer the city has to pay Springcreek Township. Frank Patrizio explained that the property tax we owe them was the result of a new law that was enacted. The city owes property taxes to Springcreek Township for several properties that were annexed years ago. The value reduces every year.

Public Comment: None

Action taken: Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve R-128-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All approved and the resolution was approved.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT Paul Oberdorfer thanked everyone who attended the Open House. He said the city would provide updates as we get them. Paul said there are some really good things happening. The grand illumination and the horse parade, which was very well attended, and the Holiday Cabaret which Paul attended and really enjoyed. A lot of great things are going on.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Lee thanked people for coming to the commission meetings. He said that he appreciates the citizens holding the commissioners accountable and appreciates the questions about the training facility.

Commissioner Vetter encouraged everyone to check out the streetlights which the electric department is changing out. He attended the atomic bridge opening. He is old enough to remember when the Piqua

Atomic facility was built. He thought the horse parade was great. Commissioner Vetter explained why the numbers are high on runaway children.

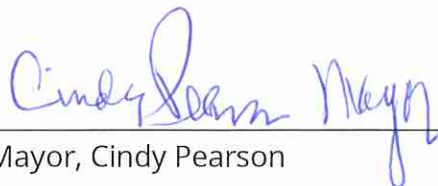
Commissioner Hohman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor Pearson mentioned four ribbon cuttings that have taken place. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and mentioned upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Vetter to adjourn.

12/5/2023

Date Approved



Mayor, Cindy Pearson



Attest