

Video Conference
Regular Meeting
January 25, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Council met via video conference in regular session with eight of the nine members present: Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Gillum, Shoemaker and Corcoran. Councilman Proehl was temporarily absent. Also, in attendance were Mayor Feeney, City Auditor Spetnagel and Law Director Villarreal. This meeting was video conferenced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and followed the guidelines of the Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost, allowing the public to listen to the meeting safely.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to excuse Mr. Proehl from the meeting tonight. Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Shoemaker seconded that Mr. Proehl be excused from the meeting. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Mr. Proehl joined the meeting moments after the vote.

Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but she indicated that she would like to have a committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting to discuss the Feast of the Flowering Moon legislation and holding the festival in the park in May. Ms. Corcoran said she may have others joining the meeting as well from downtown.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda but stated that she is working on an old assignment to update the City’s ordinances to allow elected officials to be granted the same 457 plan matching benefits that are currently available to all other City employees. She said that she is not going to schedule a meeting yet, because there is still some information that she needs to gather beforehand.

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee had Item #2 on the agenda tonight, a Resolution granting the use a certain portion of Second Street to the Buck Fifty, Inc. from April 15, 2021 to April 17, 2021 for its Fifth Annual Buck Fifty Relay Race. He stated that at the appropriate time he will ask Council to waive the three-read rule on that legislation.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee did not have anything on the agenda but that they do have two outstanding assignments that she would like to call a meeting before the February 8th Council meeting if possible. She stated that one assign is regarding taxi cab fees and the other is regarding recycling fees. President Arnold suggested that the meeting be the week before on February 1st along with Mr. Phillips’s committee meeting, and it was agreed upon.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He stated that he has yet to start work on the items he has assignments on, but that he would let President Arnold know as soon as he does.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee did not have anything on the agenda and that he will be revisiting the Nuisance Abatement assignment #19-103 in the next month or so.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had Item #1 on the agenda, an Ordinance appropriating \$3,072,508.04 for the purpose of continuing the handling of brought forward purchase orders from the year 2020 and other brought forward amounts to be put on the books of the City of Chillicothe ending December 31, 2021. He stated that this is a regular process where purchases at the end of the year are able to be paid with the purchase orders that were already in place for that year. Mr. Proehl stated that at the appropriate time he will ask Council to waive the three-read rule so that all of those expenses can be paid.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that there was nothing to report at this time.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have any items on the agenda but that she has been working on the livestock legislation. She said that she is tentatively looking at having a meeting to discuss that on February 22, prior to the Council meeting, so that they can try to make some headway on that. She said that she thinks she has a pretty good grip on a way to start tackling this topic. She also said that she could have a meeting prior to the February 8th meeting to discuss the legislation regarding granting approval to the Safety Service Director to accept bids.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney said that he would comment on the two items starting with Item #1 regarding the brought forward purchase orders. He said that he supports this because it is important to keep paying the City's bills on time. He stated that he also supports Item #2 regarding the Buck Fifty as well. He wanted to point out that that process was a really good one in working through the details, especially in times of a pandemic, bringing in the people who would be affected by shutting down the downtown streets. He added that the Buck Fifty was very willing to sort of modify an initial plan. He said we have all learned a lot about ourselves in the past year and our ability to adjust and make accommodations has been something that the City has been better at. He said he appreciates everybody that has been involved in that process and that he would support both of those items on tonight's agenda for passage.

Mayor Feeney said that he would briefly comment on assignment 21-004, which is an annual item that allows the City to go through its procedural motions and accept bids. He said if Councilwoman Gillum is not able to make a committee meeting that it is one of those items that may not need a meeting at all, because it would be hard to think of a reason to object to that legislation. In fact, he said he often wondered why it is an annual ordinance at all.

Mayor Feeney said the model for the Buck Fifty legislation would be a good one so he appreciates Councilwoman Corcoran calling a committee meeting for the Feast. He said he feels we have some time to do some research and do our due diligence. He said he knows the organizers of the Feast want to plan ahead, but of course we do not know what the landscape will look like in May. He said being able to plan something that meets the needs of the community as we move forward from now and plan ahead is a useful and prudent idea.

Mayor Feeney said thank you to the Law Director for approval of the lease agreement between the Ross County Community Action and the City to use the Pepsi Building as a temporary homeless shelter essentially for the next 60 days, starting the beginning of February. He said the Ross County Commissioners are using Cares Act money to provide temporary showers and that

sort of thing. He said when we talked about it several months ago, he brought up the idea of City Council offering a Resolution of support, and it is something that we can still do. He said what he will do if President Arnold thinks it makes sense is put forward, now that we know the details, a committee assignment for Council to consider and vote on at its next meeting supporting that legislation. He said that he thinks that because we are under a state of emergency still and in sort of the change in traditional rules in terms of leasing, the ability to enter into a lease does not necessarily need to be approved by Council, but he thinks it is a nice showing of support if Council would like to pass that legislation. He said he can forward along a copy of the lease and a committee assignment request, and if Council would want to have a committee meeting on it, he would attend and support. Otherwise, he is just very appreciative to Community Action, the Ross County Commissioners, and all of the others in the community who are making this happen. He said it has been a cold past couple of weeks and that we are in for a cold month of February, and thank you to everybody involved with that.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she has one item on the agenda which is the 2020 brought forwards. She said it seems like a lot but the majority of that (\$2.8 million) is for the Sewer Plant work that is being done, and a lot of that was bond money that they received. There is also the purchase of a squad in the Fire Department (\$214,000.00). The rest is for the carry forward money, but she said that we do need to pass that today so that we can get the bills paid as they come in.

Mr. Proehl mentioned that all of those monies were already encumbered, and Auditor Spetnagel confirmed that it was all money that was approved last year. She stated that it is just if the bill is not paid by the end of the year, they do a carry forward which is brought to Council to appropriate that money. She said those numbers were built into the budget when they worked on the budget process.

She said that before the next Council meeting, she would like to have a budget review to talk about year-end numbers at 6:00 p.m., which will be followed by the Parks & Recreation committee meeting at 6:30 pm.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

City Law Director Villarreal stated that the Law Director's office is very busy right now. There are lots of questions coming to them via email, legislation issues, and contracts. At the same time, they are keeping hundreds of Municipal Court cases moving forward. She said there is a lot going on and they are very busy, but they are handling it.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that he had nothing to report this evening but that he is glad to see that the homeless will have a place to go and that he feels very good about that.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Arnold provided information during the public participation portion of the Council meeting to enable the public to communicate with City Council if desired. He added that contact information for any other time is on the website for each Council person if anyone needs to contact them. There were no participants during this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Phillips stated that he had a quick update on the Mighty Children's Museum Ice Rink. He said their board sent a summation of how they have done so far, which was part of the Resolution where we would double back and make sure that they wanted to stay open through the date in February that had been decided. He stated that they have had a little over 2,000 skaters to their ice rink this season. They have had families from New York, Indiana, and neighboring cities who just found them on social media and decided to make a road trip of it. He said they are doing their due diligence in the health assessment with temperature checks, and they are very appreciative of the Resolution as it has been a real boost for them. He added that they are excited to keep going until the date they had set for the end. Mr. Phillips said he just wanted to update Council and anybody watching on that.

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the receipt of a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of the issuance of a permit and Transfer of Ownership for Bangkok Palace, Inc. located at 870 North Bridge Street in Chillicothe, Ohio, transferring ownership to Garcia's Mexican Grill & Cantina, LLC.

There were no objections by Council to this permit application and transfer of ownership.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

There will be a committee meeting next Monday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a Community Affairs assignment, followed by City Services two assignments

The next Council meeting will be Monday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. Prior to this meeting there will be a Budget Review at 6:00 p.m. and followed by Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the Feast of the Flowering Moon

On February 22nd, prior to Council meeting there will be a Safety Services Committee meeting to discuss livestock in the City.

President Arnold announced that there are new committee assignments since the last meeting, some of which are on this meeting's agenda, for inclusion in the Journal of Council:

Finance: Request for legislation to appropriate funds to cover brought forward purchase orders from 2020

Parks & Recreation: Request for legislation to approve the use of the City Park and surrounding streets for the annual Feast of the Flowering Moon

Safety Services: Request for legislation to authorize the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for supplies, maintenance and repairs

Parks & Recreation: Request for legislation to accept donations for the annual Fourth of July fireworks

Community Affairs: Request for legislation to support the Community Yard Sale for the weekend of June 4th – June 6th and waive the fee

Finance: Request for legislation to re-appropriate \$46,062.00 for technology upgrades in the City Administration Building

Finance: Request for legislation to appropriate funds received from a 2019 Bond Series that has not been spent

Finance: Request for legislation to appropriate \$140,500.00 brought forward from grant funds

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 03-21 appropriating \$3,072,508.04 for the purpose of continuing the handling of brought forward purchase orders from the year 2020 and other brought forward amounts to be put on the books of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for the year ending December 31, 2021, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All nine members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 03-21 adopted.

Res. No. 02-21 granting use of a certain portion of Second Street to The Buck Fifty, Inc. from April 15, 2021 through April 17, 2021 for its Fifth Annual Buck Fifty Relay Race and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Phillips moved and Ms. Gillum seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All nine members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 02-21 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Gillum seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council