

Video Conference  
Regular Meeting  
February 8, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

Council met via video conference in regular session with all of the nine members present: Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Gillum, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. 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.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Engineering Committee:**

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee did not have anything on the agenda and did not have anything else to report at this time.

### **Utilities Committee:**

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He stated that he is not working on anything yet but soon will be.

### **Finance / Technology Committee:**

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had quite a few items on tonight’s agenda. Item #1, which is a first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$296,626.48 for the purpose of continuing the handling of brought forward grant funds for the year 2020 and declaring an emergency. He said that this deals with grant monies and we will want to process this as quickly as possible, so he will ask at the appropriate time to waive the three-read rule. Item #2, which is a first reading of an Ordinance appropriating 2019 Bond Series funds received and not spent in 2019 and declaring an emergency. He indicated that he will also be asking to waive the three-read rule on this item. Item #4, which is a first reading of an Ordinance re-appropriating funds in the amount of \$46,062.00 for necessary technology upgrades at the City Administration Building and declaring an emergency. He stated that a lot of these things are bills that will need to be paid and that at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule. Item #5 is currently on the agenda but he said that he believes that after the committee meeting that was held just prior to this Council meeting that the committee may make a motion to remove it temporarily, until it is decided exactly how they will want to address this issue. Mr. Proehl asked if one of his committee members would like to make a motion to remove Item #5 from tonight’s agenda. Ms. Lewis made a motion and Ms. Payne seconded that motion. President Arnold confirmed that Item #5 would now be officially removed from the agenda. Mr. Proehl stated that they will be holding a review session next Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., to try to flesh out some of the details and see what they can come up with to address some of the issues with this. Item #6, which is a first reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds for expenditures incurred in 2021 that were not included in the temporary budget and declaring an emergency. He stated that in order to be able to pay our bills, he will ask at the appropriate time to waive the three-read rule.

### **City Services / Transit Committee:**

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #3 which is the first reading of an Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for annual supplies and maintenance and repair of the equipment required by the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for fiscal year 2021 and declaring an emergency. She stated at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule. Ms. Lewis said that her committee also has another piece of legislation that will be on the next meeting’s agenda regarding the City’s participation in the State of Ohio salt bid.

**Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have anything on the agenda and that there was nothing to report tonight.

**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.

**Human Resources Committee:**

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that there were no new items to report on as well.

**Safety Service Committee:**

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have any items on the agenda but that she will be holding a committee meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. regarding livestock in the City limits.

**Parks & Recreation Committee:**

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that there was nothing new to report.

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

Mayor Feeney said he would start the evening off by reading a proclamation for Black History Month, proclaiming the month of February 2021 as “Black History Month” in Chillicothe. He encouraged all residents to join him in honoring the history and accomplishments made by African Americans throughout this region and to participate in events honoring these contributions. He added that there are a couple of events that will be promoted on the City Facebook page and website. The first event is the Chillicothe Ross County Public Library Black History Month Program event that will be streamed virtually at 7:00 p.m. on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The other event will be a Black History Art Show 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. on February 19<sup>th</sup> presented by the Ross County NAACP and Paper City Coffee where social distancing measures will be in place.

Mayor Feeney said he supports the housekeeping legislation that is on tonight’s agenda. He also said that there are a few things in the City that he would like to update everyone on. He said two budget cycles ago in the State Capital Budget, the City received State Capital money for the Armory to do upgrades and eventually turn it into a dynamic type of community center. He said the first phase of that project was a new roof which has been completed. The second phase of the project that will go out to bid soon is tuck pointing the brick to reinforce the structure.

Mayor Feeney announced that tonight for the first time the City of Chillicothe’s Pepsi building is being used as a homeless shelter that is being run by Ross County Community Action. He said the coming days look to be very cold and quite possibly the coldest of these last few months, and he just wanted to express his appreciation for Community Action and all of those who have helped get this project together, as well as all of the volunteers who have already reached out. He said it will be nice to have a roof over the heads of these folks for the next 60 days and the opportunity to help make the post-shelter days a little bit better for them.

Mayor Feeney said he received an email today from a constituent who had questions about vaccines and the distribution here in Ross County, and the question seemed to imply that we weren’t getting the vaccines in the community. He said he just wanted to offer a little bit of information that he has gathered on the status of vaccines. He stated that there is a protocol within the State where there are phases, 1A and 1B and so forth, where different tiers of folks, based on their profession and/or their age, qualify to sign up to get their shots. He said we are currently on stage 1B, which allows those 65 and older to sign up along with other priority groups like

teachers and healthcare providers. He said he can tell us anecdotally that his parents live in Oregon, and the age is still 85 and up for vaccine distribution. He said while we are not where we would like for it to be, please know that vaccines are being distributed here in the community and he believes we are receiving approximately 200 per week as of now. He said you can sign up as you qualify through the Health District. The Health District also has the availability of antibody tests that you can call and get that are essentially for home testing. He said that if you are experiencing some symptoms and want to avail yourself to a home test, that is something that is available as well.

Mayor Feeney said that as most of you know that during the pandemic, the City has not been conducting water shut offs in the Utilities Department. From an operational standpoint it is getting to the point where it is probably not tenable for us anymore. He said we have gone well beyond the State mandate for shut offs, so he will be working with the Utilities Director, Dave Fishel, to roll out a plan for how we will resume shut offs in the coming days. He said he assumes that in either March or April we will see shut offs again, but he said he will be sure to keep the community posted on that.

Finally, he said he would close with a bit of good news and congratulations. He said he believes that Councilman Tatman has become a grandfather once again and said congratulations on his exciting news.

### **Report of Auditor Spetnagel:**

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she has several items on the agenda. Items #1, #2 and #4 are all items that were already appropriated last year, but because of the way that the City is required to forward items into the next year, they cannot carry forward cash. Grants are cash, so Item #1 is money that was appropriated last year that we just need to re-appropriate. Item #2 is bond money and that money was not encumbered on a purchase order, but that was money that was already dedicated from last year as well, so we will need to re-appropriate that. Item #4 was an Ordinance from last year that was not on a purchase order so it needs re-appropriated as well.

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that Item # 6 is due to the way the temporary budget works. She said money is allocated to certain funds based on prior year expenditures, so some of these items may not have had the appropriate amount of money already allocated, and invoices are due before we will be getting the permanent budget done. This ordinance is to get additional money appropriated before the final budget, and these amounts will be taken off of the final budget.

### **Report of Law Director Villarreal:**

City Law Director Villarreal stated that they have had a huge influx of outside questions from some of the different agencies involved and a lot of opinions, official and unofficial, so they have been really busy. She said that they have lots of legislation being handled in their office as well, and they are working on getting those turned around as fast as they can. She said she is looking forward to seeing Council members come in and talk to Teresa and herself and answering their questions.

### **Report of President Arnold:**

President Arnold said that he is glad to see the homeless being taken care of down at the City's Pepsi building and that he thinks that's great. He said it is something he has been wanting to see for some time, especially with the weather we have had with more snow coming and falling temperatures to the teens and lower, that this couldn't be a better time. He said one of his employees was excited, because she is going to try to help out by volunteering.

## **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.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tatman asked if Mayor Feeney could speak a little bit about the McArthur School Project.

Mayor Feeney said that this is a project that is of high interest to him. He said he believes that some years ago, Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health and the ADAMH Board became owners of one or two parcels of that property. Then through a series of transactions the Pike County Metropolitan Housing Authority acquired the property and have been working on essentially tax credit projects that would have been some sort of housing projects on that school site. He said for reasons he is not 100% familiar with, the formulation of those projects were handed off to Integrated Services, which does a variety of good work in Southern Ohio. He said the nature of these projects is to apply through Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) for certain tax credits that essentially make these projects possible. He said that his understanding is that this is Integrated Services' number one project for this calendar year. He said they essentially submit a proposal to the State, and if it scores high enough it gets funded. He said that he thinks the developer itself is partners with a Cincinnati company, but the owners would either be Integrated Services or another local entity. He said that there is somehow a relationship with the Chillicothe Metropolitan Housing Authority wherein that body needs to do some sort of approval or sign off on the construction of the project as well, and it has something to do with the type of housing and credits. He said the project itself is for approximately 35 units that will become supportive housing for homeless, and there will be onsite counselors that will make the transition from homelessness and/or any sort of substance abuse into independent living a reality. He said he thinks there are two parcels over there and that the proposal is for one of those parcels. He said that he has spoken with the CEO of Integrated Services and let him know that the property and that side of town in particular is of keen interest to him, because it could be so impactful if we could go beyond simply housing and potentially make it some sort of multiuse development. He pointed out that there is no longer a grocery store east of Bridge Street in Chillicothe anymore; although, he said Corner Market of course is relatively close. He said that he thinks Integrated Services has done a lot of good in what they do and they are very creative. He said that is the summary from his knowledge, and that he said he is not a participant in the project at all. He said they have reached out to the City Transit system for essentially support in relation to the kind of transportation we are already providing and what we could provide, and we have offered assistance in that. He said he is happy to answer any specific questions anyone may have.

Mr. Shoemaker said he has the site plans that he could share if anyone is interested. He said he will email them out to the Council members.

Mr. Tatman said thank you to Mayor Feeney and that he just wanted to clear it up. He said he will be glad to see the old McArthur School to not be there, and he is hoping this project will work out for us. He said he has been approached by a few people wanting to know what the City was going to do with it. He tried to tell them that it was already in someone else's hands, and so he is kind of glad to see this project come forth.

## COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

There will be a review session next Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion on the Assistant Law Director position.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Prior to Council meeting there will be a Safety Services Committee meeting to discuss livestock in the City, as well as a Human Resources Committee meeting to discuss information on the 457 Plan matching legislation.

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 \$64,445.42 to fund the Law Director's office, which has been taken off of the agenda

**Finance:** Request for legislation to appropriate funds for expenditures incurred in 2021 that were not included in the temporary budget

**City Services:** Request for legislation for the City of Chillicothe to participate in the State of Ohio salt bid

## READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 04-21 appropriating \$296,626.48 for the purpose of continuing the handling of brought forward grant funds for the year 2020 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. 04-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 05-21 appropriating 2019 Bond Series funds received and not spent in 2019 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Lewis 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. 05-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 06-21 authorizing and directing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for annual supplies and maintenance and repair of the equipment required by the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for fiscal year 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis 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. 06-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 07-21 re-appropriating funds in the amount of \$46,062.00 for necessary technology upgrades at the City Administration Building and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Payne 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. 07-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 08-21 appropriating funds for expenditures incurred in 2021 that were not included in the temporary budget and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Mr. Phillips 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. 08-21 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Mr. Shoemaker seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council