

Video Conference
Regular Meeting
March 22, 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, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. Ms. Gillum was 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.

Mr. Shoemaker moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Ms. Gillum be excused from the evening's City Council meeting. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee did not have any items on the agenda but that there were a few things she would like to say. She said the Downtown Chillicothe Board did a great job organizing a spring downtown clean up that was very successful. They had over 60 volunteers to come downtown and get it nice and clean and tidy for the spring open house. She said to have that kind of turnout just showed a sense of pride and support for the local business owners. She added that Downtown Chillicothe also through grant funding got some more bike racks to put throughout town. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce did a St. Paddy's Day Bar Crawl to raise money for the downtown flower fund, and it went very well. She said she participated and felt very safe and that everyone did a great job adhering to the safety guidelines. She also said that Springdale Garden Center is getting ready to rollout with their hanging baskets and planters again this year, and she thinks they do a fantastic job and it really adds a lot to the downtown. If anyone would like to donate to that flower fund, she said they can go to the Downtown Chillicothe website and donate.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had Item #2 on the agenda, which is an Ordinance to make appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Chillicothe during the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency. He stated that at the appropriate time he will ask Council to waive the three-read rule for this item. Also, Item #4, which is an Ordinance accepting and appropriating a refund check issued to the Chillicothe Municipal Court by Accurate Mechanical Inc and declaring an emergency. He said at the appropriate time so that this can be taken care of he will ask that Council please waive the three-read rule. Item #6, an Ordinance reappropriating funds received from the Atomic Credit Union in 2020 for street improvements at the intersection on Limestone Boulevard and Western Avenue and declaring an emergency. He said that this is something that would require waiving the three-read rule so that we can get this money in place and get those improvements taken care of.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had Item #3 on the agenda, which is Resolution supporting the Ohio Department of Transportation's TRAC application to secure additional funding for Bridge Street improvements and declaring an emergency. He said that he will also be asking that Council waive the three-read rule so that the application deadline of March 26 can be met.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but he wanted to let everyone know that he put his snowblower away, got the lawnmower out, and is getting ready to mow grass and that's all he had to report.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had Item #8 on the agenda, which is an ordinance authorizing the Transit Department to enter into a preliminary partnership with SHARE Mobility, appropriating \$10,000 to cover expenses and declaring an emergency. She said at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated for Ms. Gillum in her absence that the Safety Service Committee had Item #7, which is an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$1,000 in funds donated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the City's Annual Fishing Derby and declaring an emergency. She said at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule on this one as well.

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee had one item on the agenda, but before discussing that he wanted to kind of echo Councilwoman Nickerson's awesome experience downtown. He said that he and his wife were able to enjoy the weekend downtown in the nice weather, and he saw several shops that were not normally open on a Sunday open. He stated that business owners have reported that their sales were sky high. He said that it was great to see the number of visitors, and it was just a really great weekend to be in downtown Chillicothe. He added that he just wanted to share that experience, as he is sure it is the same experience of a lot of other folks that were able to make it out. He said Community Affairs had Item #1, which is a third reading of an ordinance supporting the Community Yard Sale to be held on the weekend of Friday June 4, 2021 through Sunday June 6, 2021, waiving the \$5.00 permit fee for that weekend.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee had Item #5, which is an ordinance to allow elected officials to be granted the same 457 plan matching benefits that are currently permitted to City employees.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda. She reported that last week the Parks & Recreation Board met, as well as the Tree Commission. She said the Tree Commission is getting ready to start their spring clean up and are getting ready for Arbor Day in the park, which will happen on Earth Day. She said that they are still looking for anyone who would like trees to be planted in their neighborhood. She said residents can always call Clint in the Parks & Rec office if interested. She added that the Parks & Rec office is also getting things ready for spring by getting ball fields and the park ready. She said they are moving towards opening the City Pool, but at this time she does not know what that will look like. She said she thinks they are going to try to work together with the YMCA and figure out the protocol and what needs to be done. She said she thinks those are all good things and that things are happening. She stated that she also met with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Tecumseh is planning on going on this year, with less seats, but they still plan on opening up. Also, she said Adena plans on opening up and the Feast of the Flowering Moon is planning on coming to the park. She stated that we have some things to look forward to and to enjoy some of our traditions that we are used to here in Chillicothe.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that he would run through some of the high points on the items on tonight's agenda. The third reading on the Community Yard Sale which he would ask for Council's favorable vote on. He said that Item #2 is the permanent budget and he said he appreciates Auditor Spetnagel's work on this unique process and for Council essentially going through the budget process twice. He said he didn't have any questions between the review sessions last week and tonight's meeting, but he did get some feedback that it is something they would like to see more of in the future in addition to the traditional Auditor's report. He said thank you to everyone who was involved in that process and that he would ask for Council's favorable vote on Item #2

tonight as we need that budget passed by law by March 31st. He said he wanted to thank Councilman Shoemaker's efforts and the Law Director's efforts for getting the TRAC application Resolution turned around so quickly. He said we have been working together with District 9 for several years now on upcoming very significant road projects on Bridge Street and continue to piece together various funding sources. He said this Resolution is simply supporting District 9's application to the Central Office for more funding for the project, and it does not obligate the City to anything but does help District 9's application. He stated that the impact of that project will be very significant. He said that the City also submitted a Transportation Alternative Program grant application in which the City was the applicant supported by District 9, also to ODOT, for pedestrian facilities that would support this project. He said we keep piecing together funding resources because it is such a big project, and as Councilman Shoemaker mentioned that application deadline for ODOT District 9 is March 26, so he would ask for Council's favorable support for that item tonight. He stated that Item #6 is a reappropriation and is money that was appropriated and accepted as a donation last year, and we are reappropriating this year. He said the work has already gone out to bid, so as soon as this money is appropriated, we can get purchase orders going and get that work going up on Western Avenue, which he knows a lot of people are anxious for and he is anxious to get started on as well. He said there are a few items of lesser note but significant for those involved just to get the funds appropriated, and one is for the Annual Fishing Derby. Item #8 is a vendor out of Columbus that we have been engaged with this year whose software will support basically the accessibility and the scheduling of rides and data collection in our Transit system. He said as soon as we appropriate that money, we can hit the ground running with them. He said they came down a month or so ago and their suite of options are pretty impressive, and this is kind of the tip of the iceberg with them in terms of the capacity of what they can do. He added that in essence for us, this is a test run with this organization to see what they might be able to do for the City going forward. He said he will conclude his report with he had on his green shirt all day and added his green tie for the meeting tonight, stating that at halftime we were down 15, so go Bobcats!

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she had one item on the agenda, Item #2, which is to appropriate funds for the budget for the remainder of the year from April 1st to December 31st. She said that we met and discussed this on several occasions and that she did not have any other questions from Council. She said that we do need to have this passed hopefully tonight, so she would ask for Council's support on that.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

City Law Director Villarreal stated that she did not have a report at this time.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that he would like to give an update on what is going on in Council chambers. He said that two new cameras have been put up, and additional cables will be put in place soon that will pretty much complete the install. He said that he has connected with a technician who is going to set up the software and program everything so that the microphones, sound, and video will work together smoothly and enable the City Council meetings to stream on Facebook, YouTube, Horizon and Spectrum. He said all of that is going on and hopefully everything will be pretty well put together between this week and next. He said that if the Governor lifts the restrictions for the number of people allowed in a meeting soon, that maybe at our next meeting we can be back in Council chambers. He said he would contact Council member individually and get each member's feelings on 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.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

The next Council meeting will be Monday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m.

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:

Safety Services: Request for legislation to regulate recreational, construction, commercial truck and trailer parking on the City streets.

Engineering: Request for legislation to support ODOT to apply for grant funding for a Bridge Street project.

Finance: Request for legislation to establish the operating budget for our City from April to December of this year.

Finance: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate \$2,350.00 for an insurance claim for damages to a guardrail on Belleview Avenue.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 14-21 supporting a Community Yard Sale to be held the weekend of Friday, June 4, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021 and waiving the yard sale permit fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for that weekend was read for the third time by title only. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 14-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 15-21 to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Chillicothe, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 and 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 eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 15-21 adopted.

Res. No. 06-21 supporting the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) TRAC application to secure additional funding for a Bridge Street project and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 06-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 16-21 accepting and appropriating an overpayment refund check issued to the Chillicothe Municipal Court by Accurate Mechanical, Inc. and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Mr. Shoemaker seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 16-21 adopted.

An Ordinance granting Elected Officials the benefit of participating in the City's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan to include the same City-funded match available to all other permanent employees of the City of Chillicothe, such benefit commencing upon the first day of the next term for each elected position was read for the first time by title only.

Ord. No. 17-21 reappropriating funds received from the Atomic Credit Union in 2020 for street improvements at the intersection of Limestone Boulevard and Western Avenue and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 17-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 18-21 accepting and appropriating \$1,000.00 in funds donated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the City's Annual Fishing Derby and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 18-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 19-21 authorizing the City Transit Department to enter into a preliminary partnership with SHARE Mobility, appropriating \$10,000.00 to cover expenses and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 19-21 adopted.

Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Council enter into an executive session to discuss pending litigation for the City of Chillicothe. All eight members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. At 7:39 p.m. Council logged off of Facebook Live and the executive session was conducted for the stated purpose.

At 7:45 p.m. Council returned to Facebook Live. Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Council go out of the executive session and resume the regular meeting. All eight members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Phillips moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All eight members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council