

Video Conference  
Regular Meeting  
April 12, 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 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. Proehl moved and Mr. Shoemaker 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. Nickerson moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 22, 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 said that they do have a request to appropriate \$25,411.81 for HUD Housing. She indicated that she would like to call a committee meeting to discuss this next Monday at 6:30 pm.

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

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but that they are still looking into having a meeting to discuss the position request from the Law Director's office. He said he will try to let everyone know if next Monday, following Ms. Nickerson's meeting, would work. He said they are trying to see who wants to be invited besides the normal Council, but that he would let everyone know.

### **Engineering Committee:**

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He said that he would like to follow that up with the most recent assignment that has been given to the Engineering Committee, #21-030, which is a request for legislation to approve the sign placement of the Chillicothe Athletic Center at 1245 Western Avenue. He said he would also like to schedule a committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> if possible.

### **Utilities Committee:**

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have anything on the agenda, but he said he is still waiting for a couple of items to come forward to him from the Utilities Department. He said as soon as he gets that information, he will hold a meeting hopefully soon. He said it sounds like they might get a chance to get some help with the sewer plans they have coming up if the government comes through. He said it would be really good if so, because that is going to be an expensive proposition.

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

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had Item #4, which is a Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with ODOT for the Ohio Rides to Community Immunity Program. She said she had a meeting prior to tonight's Council meeting discussing the amendments to the legislation and that tonight will be the first reading. She said City Services has two outstanding items that she is going to get back on top of in regards to recycling fees and taxi cab fees. She said she is still collecting information on that and does not have a date in mind yet but hopes to have one soon.

### **Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have anything on the agenda; however, he was in receipt of a committee assignment that would designate the City of Chillicothe as a Purple Heart City. He said he has looked over the legislation and that there will be someone to speak this evening on that. He said that he would like to call a committee meeting to go over the legislation and make sure that it is an agreeable designation with Council.

### **Human Resources Committee:**

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #1, which is the second reading to update the City's Ordinance to allow elected officials to be granted the same 457 plan matching benefits that are currently permitted to City employees. She also mentioned Item #3, which is a request for legislation to establish a pay scale for seasonal employees, and at the appropriate time she said she will ask Council to waive the three-read rule so that the departments will have the necessary time to go ahead and start hiring.

### **Parks & Recreation Committee:**

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda but that the Parks & Recreation Board met in March and so did the Tree Commission. She said that the Tree Commission is in the middle of their spring cleaning and planting season and they will also be hosting the Earth Day celebration in the park, and Arbor Day will also be the same day as Earth Day. They will host the kids down in the park as they have done in the past. She also stated that they are planning on opening the pool hopefully on Memorial weekend like has been done in the past if everything goes well. She said she would also like to thank the City Service Department for the removal of a hazardous tree on Limestone, and added that if a storm were to come along it would have been in the middle of the road, and so she appreciates the efforts out of that department.

President Arnold mentioned that there had been a discussion about one of the assignments the Engineering Committee currently has that Mr. Shoemaker would like to bring up at this time.

Mr. Shoemaker said that he would like to ask that the Engineering Committee vote an assignment out of committee, #19-103, which is a request for legislation to review and update the Codified Ordinance Chapter 138 dealing with nuisance abatement. He said as he has stated earlier that staff has worked within Section 138, and they found a solution administratively; so, he would like to take that out of committee if the Engineering Committee would agree to that.

The Committee members are Ms. Corcoran and Mr. Tatman, both of which did not have an objection to that. President Arnold stated that he would remove that item from the assignments.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

President Arnold mentioned that Mayor Feeney was not here tonight but wanted to wish his wife, Stacy Brooks, a happy birthday.

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

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she did not have anything to report tonight other than that they have their CAFR report started so that they can get the audit started. She said they are extremely busy right now but there is nothing to really report at this time.

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

City Law Director Villarreal stated that she did not have a report but said that there is a staff member with a family member with some serious health issues going on right now and that she would ask for Council's patience and thoughts and prayers.

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

President Arnold said that he would move right into audience participation by introducing Melody Lapczynski to Council who he had invited to speak to City Council about the possibility of Chillicothe being designated a Purple Heart City. He stated that she has really put forth an effort to bring together the City becoming a Purple Heart City, and he said he would let her describe it

further to everyone.

Ms. Lapczynski stated that she wanted to talk to Council about having Chillicothe designated a Purple Heart City. She said the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been either wounded or killed as a result of enemy fire. She said as the first capital of Ohio, Chillicothe has a history based on strong people who believed in hard work, family and country. Over the years Chillicothe has seen its share of men and women who have fought for this country. Many of those military men and women did not return home from their battles. Many returned home but bearing scars from their battles. Many of them returned home and went back to their normal life, never talking about their acts of valor on the battlefield, and she said she believes they deserve to be remembered. She said the Military Order of the Purple Heart now has a program that recognizes these individuals. Purple Heart Cities, Villages, Interstates and Universities have come into existence across the country. She said she would like to have Chillicothe designated as a Purple Heart City. She said that signs would be put up on the main roadways coming into and out of Chillicothe, and she would also like to see a plaque put up in the Military Memorial Park.

Ms. Lapczynski stated that she has been talking to the community because she does not believe that this is a "Melody Lapczynski project". She thinks it needs to be a Chillicothe project, and with that in mind she has been talking to a cross section of entities over the last couple of months in Chillicothe asking for their support for this project. Business leaders, Veterans' Organizations, Police, Fire and local Military have shown an overwhelming support for this project. In addition, our County Commissioners, Mayor Feeney, and State and Federal Elected Officials who represent Chillicothe have also jumped onboard with this. She said she put together a packet of this information and sent it to President Arnold and the Council Clerk that contains over 60 letters of support for having Chillicothe designated as a Purple Heart City. These items were shared with the Council members as well.

She stated that she has spent two months living and breathing this project and would like to stay involved in it if possible. She added that just hearing some of the stories has been very humbling.

President Arnold stated that at this point it has been assigned to the Community Affairs Committee, with Mr. Greg Phillips as Committee Chairperson, who will help take it from there into legislation. He stated that she is welcome to watch the committee meetings as they go through the processes of reading it and voting on it.

Ms. Lewis stated that she just wanted to thank Melody for all of the research and time she has put into this project. She said it is very apparent that this is very important to her and that she is very passionate about it. She said she is looking forward to the meetings going forward about it and that she appreciates her bringing this to Council.

Mr. Phillips stated that he wanted to echo Councilwoman Lewis's sentiments and that he is sure that we all have the same humility and sense of honor to potentially be a Purple Heart City. He said he will make sure that he has her number and/or email and will certainly keep her abreast of when the meetings are. He added that if there is anything she needs from him and his committee, they will certainly be available to make sure she feels like she knows what is going on. He said they will definitely give it the due recognition that it deserves.

Mr. Shoemaker thanked Ms. Lapczynski for speaking to Council.

President Arnold said he wanted to also echo and just say thank you for bringing this forward to Council and what Ms. Lewis said is quite correct. He said he doesn't think that most of us realize how many people are in this community who are Purple Heart recipients. He mentioned his father was, and he knew he was, but he never heard him talk about it. He said there are a lot of people in this community who are like that and this is to honor and recognize them.

## **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

Committee Meetings next Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.: Safety Service/Ms. Gillum; Development/Ms. Nickerson; Finance/Mr. Proehl; Community Affairs/Mr. Phillips

Committee Meeting Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. prior to Council Meeting: Engineering/Mr. Shoemaker.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Transit:** Request for legislation to authorize the Mayor to file an application for contract with ODOT for the Rides to Community Immunity Program in Ohio's Rural Transportation Program

**Human Resources:** Request for legislation to establish the pay scale for seasonal employees

**Utilities:** Request for legislation to reappropriate funds for the Utilities Department carryover projects

**Engineering:** Request for legislation to approve the sign placement of the Chillicothe Athletic Center on Western Avenue

**Development:** Request for legislation to appropriate \$25,411.81 for HUD Revolving Loan Fund

**Community Affairs:** Request for legislation to designate Chillicothe a Purple Heart City

## READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

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 second time by title only.

Ord. No. 20-21 accepting and appropriating insurance claim funds received for damage to a Belleview Avenue guardrail 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. 20-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 21-21 establishing the pay scale for part-time seasonal employees within the City Administration Office and the Parks & Recreation, Parks & Recreation – Swimming Pool, Engineering, Utilities, Service, and Police Departments of the City of Chillicothe for calendar year 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Payne 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. 21-21 adopted.

A Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Ohio Rides to Community Immunity Program for SFY2022 or CY2022, accepting such grant and approving execution of a contract with ODOT if awarded, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council