

Video Conference  
Regular Meeting  
April 26, 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. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 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 any items on the agenda. He added that he will have a committee meeting directly after the Council meeting.

### **Utilities Committee:**

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee had Item #3 which is the first reading of an Ordinance reappropriating funds for Utilities Department Carryover Projects and declaring an emergency. He said they are reappropriating funds that have already been approved. The original individuals that were going to do the work are no longer able to do so, so they need to do this in order to get the work started for the Utilities Department.

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

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had Item #2 on the agenda, which is a second reading of a Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with ODOT for the Ohio Rides to Community Immunity Program. She stated that there was going to be an amendment to this legislation; however, they will not be doing the amendment after all, passing it through as it is. Ms. Lewis stated that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule.

President Arnold inquired about why the amendment would not be taking place.

Ms. Lewis replied that it was a very minute change at the last minute and that there was really no problem with what initially was sent to the Law Director's office.

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

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that there was nothing to report at this time.

### **Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have anything on the agenda; however, he said that they will have a discussion at the committee meeting after the Council meeting.

### **Development Committee:**

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee did not have any items on the agenda but that she would like to request a committee meeting for next Monday at 6:30 p.m. in regards to the request for Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to strengthen workers' rights.

### **Human Resources Committee:**

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee had #1 on the agenda, which is the third 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.

**Parks & Recreation Committee:**

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that she did not have anything else to report as well.

**Safety Service Committee:**

Ms. Gillum reported that the Safety Service Committee will be having a committee meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> before the regular City Council meeting for the livestock inside City limits legislation. She said that they were going to have that meeting last week, but there were technical difficulties with Facebook. She stated that they will be resubmitting assignment #21-021, which was in regards to the radios for the Fire Department. She said that in the original legislation it was listed as Unappropriated General Fund and it needed to be changed to Safety Levy Capital. She asked if a Special Council meeting could be made in order to get that passed if necessary.

President Arnold said that would be okay, and that a Special meeting could be called by three members of Council or by the Mayor.

Ms. Gillum said that it would depend on how fast they can get the legislation through the Law Director's office, so she will wait to make an announcement when that meeting may be until then.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney said that he would like to give a brief report on some good news. He said if you have not seen it already, the City will be having large item pick-up this year. He said it may have been the most requested item that they had to pass on last year, but he said there is money in the budget and that they are able to do it this year. He added the schedule is on the website and on the City's Facebook page.

Mayor Feeney said that the City has signed a contract for Fourth of July fireworks this year on July 4<sup>th</sup>. His final statement was that we will be opening the City pool this year. He said it was a trio of good news and with that he would conclude his report.

**Report of Auditor Spetnagel:**

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she did not have anything to report at this time.

**Report of Law Director Villarreal:**

City Law Director Villarreal stated that she did not have much to report on except the fact that things are really ramping up as far as activity in the Courts. She said that in fact they are steadily increasing the cases. She said they are still shorthanded in the office, but they are doing the best they can. She said requests certainly will not be addressed the next day like they were doing. She said that they tried to have a committee meeting but that there was a Facebook fail. She said she knows that some Council members had questions and had asked her to have the other attorneys, as well as a Judge and the Chief available for questions. She said they wanted her to let Council know that if they still had questions and wanted to ask particularly detailed questions that they would be willing to answer those. She said to let her know and she would try to set that up again.

**Report of President Arnold:**

President Arnold said the meetings are going to return to Council Chambers for the next meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., with a committee meeting prior at 6:30 p.m. He stated that there will be some restrictions in place and that the seating area is divided with individual microphones for Council members to use. He said if all works well that it will be streaming to Facebook and YouTube. President Arnold stated that the reason that the Council meetings can take place in Council Chambers is because the Governor and Health Department has rescinded some rules and regulations, which had kept us from attending meetings. He said that there are still some rules and regulations such as limited capacity and that facemasks will be required unless you are speaking. He said that there will be sanitation supplies there to try to keep the areas as clean as possible. He asked if anyone had any problems with going back into Chambers, and if so to let him know

because he could still work with them not being on site with Zoom.

## 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

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:

**Development:** Request for legislation to support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to strengthen workers' rights

Ms. Nickerson asked if the committee meeting could be in person at the Rotary Shelter in the Park rather than via Zoom.

Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.: Development/Ms. Nickerson

Committee Meeting Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. prior to Council Meeting: Safety Service/Ms. Gillum

The next Council meeting will be Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 22-21 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 third time by title only. All nine members present voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 22-21 adopted.

Res. No. 07-21 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 second 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 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. 07-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 23-21 reappropriating funds for Utilities Department Carryover Projects and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Tatman 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. 23-21 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council