

Video Conference
Regular Meeting
May 26, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Council met via video conference in regular session with the following seven members present: Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Corcoran and Proehl. Also, in attendance were Mayor Feeney, City Law Director Villarreal, City Auditor Spetnagel, Utilities Director, Dave Fishel, and City IT Specialist, Paul Gillum. 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 Pro Tem Dustin Proehl requested a motion to excuse Ms. Gillum and Mr. Shoemaker, who were unable to attend. Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded the motion. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the motion adopted.

Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2020 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee had one item on the agenda, Items #3, which is appropriating \$115,000.00 for the purchase of materials and installation of a new waterline on Cliffside Drive. He stated that it had been talked about a couple of years ago, but it did not get completed last year. With paving being done this year in the area it has become essential to get that done as soon as possible. Mr. Tatman stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass this item tonight. Mr. Tatman also stated that he had been notified that an amendment by substitution was necessary for Ordinance #32-20, which was an ordinance appropriating \$26,021.48 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA system repairs. This ordinance was passed at the last meeting but the fund number was incorrect. Mr. Tatman made a motion to amend Ordinance #32-20 by substitution and it seconded by Mr. Phillips. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the motion adopted.

Engineering Committee:

Ms. Corcoran reported on Mr. Shoemaker’s behalf that the Engineering Committee had one item that was not yet on the agenda regarding appropriating funds for parking meters and would like to request that Council suspend Council Rule 8 and waive the three-day receipt rule to allow this item to be presented at tonight’s meeting. Ms. Corcoran stated that it was for transferring and appropriating \$23,000.00 for use toward the installation of parking meters on portions of Paint Street and Second Street and declaring an emergency. President Pro Tem Proehl requested a motion to suspend Council Rule 8. Ms. Corcoran moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Council suspend Council Rule 8. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the motion adopted and stated that this would be added to the agenda as Item #8.

City Services/Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services / Transit Committee had Item #2 on the agenda which is authorizing the City to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program for road salt. She indicated that its first reading was at the last meeting, but at the appropriate time she will request to waive the three-read rule, so that the City can meet the deadline for this program, seeking to pass this item tonight.

Parks / Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran reported the Parks / Recreation Committee had Item #4 on the agenda which is appropriating \$4,000.00 for railroad bed/floodwall leveling and declaring an emergency. She stated that at the appropriate time she will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass these items tonight.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported that the Finance / Technology Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #5 and Item #7. Item #5 is appropriating \$7,021.00 to cover costs associated with the City's participation in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Intern Program and declaring an emergency. He stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass this item tonight, so that the program could get started. Item #7 is appropriating \$16,000.00 for election expenses and declaring an emergency. He stated that in order to make sure that those bills are paid, he will ask at the appropriate time to waive the three-read rule for this as well.

Safety Service Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported on Ms. Gillum's behalf that the Safety Service Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #6, which is authorizing the Chillicothe Municipal Court to apply for the Ohio Attorney General's Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant and the State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) Grant to extend the Chillicothe Municipal Court Victim Witness Assistance Program, accepting said grants if awarded, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Proehl stated that because this is a grant, time is of the essence, and at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass this item tonight.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney said that he would like to comment on several of the items on the agenda. Item #1 plans to go to the third read, so there was no need for discussion on that tonight. Pressing items are #3, as Mr. Tatman mentioned, is something that was up for some discussion last year and this year. He mentioned that Utilities Director Dave Fishel was present to answer any specific questions regarding that. Item #5 is something the City will be fully reimbursed for and requested Council's support for passage of that. Mayor Feeney encouraged Council members to reach out to him directly to have the new intern assist them with their items if needed, as he has already assisted some Council members already.

Mayor Feeney asked for Council's support on Item #6 and #7, as they are annual items. Item #7 is interesting in that the City gets billed after-the-fact from the Board of Elections for election expenses. He stated that Item #8 was discussed at a committee meeting the previous week and that basically the request for parking meter legislation is two-fold. One is that it enables the City to enforce parking in a way it is not able to do presently. The Downtown Development Commission has recommended for five to six years that the City put in parking meters for some time in terms of good city planning and offering the opportunity to enforce parking. This is in essence helping the downtown businesses as they reopen. This is the first or two components and is the appropriation, and there will be a second component which will actually be what changes the Codified Ordinances to direct Administration as to where the parking meters will go. He said that he will be working with the Law Director's office this week to get that started, along with the intern. Mayor Feeney thanked the Law Director's office for turning around the current piece of legislation so quickly. He further stated that for Council's consideration the desire to read these parking meter ordinances more than once, and he would suggest that Council consider having a special meeting one week from tonight so that they could get more than one reading on this legislation and possibly have a third reading two weeks from tonight.

Mayor Feeney reported that the City Administration Building will be reopening to the public starting June 1st. Policies will be posted both in the building and online. He stated that the City has made a lot of changes over the past two months, mostly related to physical barriers, to help the health and safety both of the employees and the public that comes into the building. He said that many questions have been asked about the City pool, large item pick up, and the Fourth of July. He stated that he does not have solid answers for any of those questions and that the reasons are for health and safety as well as budgetary concerns. He further stated that the City is desperately trying to figure out a way to accommodate large item pick up. Many surrounding communities have decided to close their pools already, while a couple have decided to open. He said they recognize that the pool is a place that provides a healthy and safe activity for children during the summer, but he is weighing the health of the community and the cost. Mayor Feeney said that he hopes to have a decision by the next Council meeting.

Mayor Feeney mentioned the recent decision of the Ross County Health District to eliminate the position of the Administrator. He shared that he submitted a letter of support to the Board suggesting that he has been very pleased with the Health District and its current structure. In 2017 the Health District had no levy to support it, and since then it has reimagined itself, sought grants and has worked very well for the health of the community; and he thought we had a very good partnership with the Health District. The Health District was created in 1979 by the joining of a general health district of the townships and the City health district. The two entities merged to create our current health district and with that then came essentially a contract to be joined together. Several years ago, when the levy was up there were conversations about if whether or not the City would need to go on its own as a health district if the levy were to fail. Mayor Feeney stated that it has a pretty simple out clause, where you have to give at least eight months prior notice to January of the following year. Doing so the City could opt out of the health district and could be a City health district once again if necessary. The Mayor has three appointments to the Health Board and the District Advisory committee, which is mostly made of township trustees, has four appointments to that Board. The vote to eliminate that position was down those lines, three against four, in eliminating that position. He stated that he is not suggesting that the City leave the Health District but he did want Council to be aware and informed of that procedure and City Council's role. It has not been determined who will be the replacement of the health administrator, but it will be a health commissioner as opposed to an administrator. There are significantly more details to that Board, but he wanted to make Council aware of that change and its impact on the City and Council.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel reported on Item #5, which is an ordinance appropriating \$7,021.00 to cover costs associated with the City's participation in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Intern Program. She said that this is for an intern that will be working in the Administration Building and noted that the full cost will be reimbursed. She also mentioned that Item #7, which is an ordinance appropriating \$16,000.00 for election expenses, and she said that this is for the election that took place last year and is automatically deducted from the property tax check that the City received from the County Auditor.

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she planned on holding a budget review on June 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

City Law Director Villarreal stated everything is back up and running in her office with everyone back to full time and that the Courts are keeping them busy.

Report of President Pro Tem Proehl:

President Pro Tem Proehl stated that he was filling in for President Arnold and asked for some thoughts for his Mother who had fallen and hoped that she is going to be okay. He stated that Bruce will be back at the next meeting.

President Pro Tem Proehl mentioned that he had just gotten back from celebrating Memorial Day, which is always a special holiday, and that he was glad to see so many people in Chillicothe out celebrating and trying to do so safely most importantly. He stated that people who are taking those extra precautions are doing the right thing for all of the people of the community and it is appreciated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Pro Tem Proehl provided information during the public participation portion of the Council meeting to enable the public to communicate with City Council if desired. There were no participants.

Mayor Feeney stated that he forgot to mention that this past Sunday marked the end of Chief Washburn's 25-year career with the City of Chillicothe. He said that he will be missed, and asked that everyone take a moment to pause and recognize his service to the City. In the interim before a test can take place, Captain Bamfield will be promoted to Interim Chief and will do a wonderful job. Mayor Feeney thanked Chief Washburn for his service to Chillicothe.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Pro Tem Proehl stated that there will be a Special Council Meeting Monday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. to talk about the changes to the parking meters.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

An Ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$149,833.33 for architectural, engineering, surveying and other costs for the planning and design of the new fire station at 40-50 Centennial Boulevard was read for the second time by title only.

Ord. No. 34-20 authorizing the City to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program for road salt 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 seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 34-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 35-20 appropriating \$115,000.00 for the purchase of materials and installation of a new waterline on Cliffside Drive and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Tatman moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 35-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 36-20 appropriating \$4,000.00 for railroad bed/floodwall leveling and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Corcoran moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 36-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 37-20 appropriating \$7,021.00 to cover costs associated with the City’s participation in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Intern Program 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 seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 37-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 38-20 authorizing the Chillicothe Municipal Court to apply for the Ohio Attorney General’s Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant and the State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) Grant to extend the Chillicothe Municipal Court Victim Witness Assistance Program, accepting said grants if awarded, 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 seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem declared Ordinance No. 38-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 39-20 appropriating \$16,000.00 for election expenses 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 seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 39-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 40-20 transferring and appropriating \$23,000.00 for use toward the installation of parking meters on portions of Paint Street and Second Street and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Corcoran moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Tem Proehl declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Pro Tem Proehl declared Ordinance No. 40-20 adopted.

By the suggestion of Mayor Feeney in order to provide a direct way to make the announcement, President Pro Temp Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded to have a Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Temp Proehl declared the motion adopted.

President Pro Temp Proehl inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All seven members present voted “yea” and President Pro Temp Proehl declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council

