

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
July 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Council met in regular session with eight of the nine members present: Phillips, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Gillum, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. Ms. Payne was absent. Also, in attendance were a few visitors in the audience, in addition to Mayor Feeney and City Auditor Spetnagel. Law Director Villarreal was absent.

President Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Proehl moved and Mr. Shoemaker seconded that Ms. Payne 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 June 28, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have any agenda items and at this time nothing new to report.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee had nothing on the agenda tonight and that they had nothing to report.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported that the Finance Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #1, which is the first reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds to cover an increase in costs for City-wide insurance policies and declaring an emergency, and he said he would ask that Council waive the three-read rule at the appropriate time so that this could be passed. Also, Item #3, which is the first reading of a Resolution adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2022, submitting the same to the County Auditor, and declaring an emergency. He said that again at the appropriate time he will be asking that Council waive the three-read rule so that this could be passed in a timely manner.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have anything to report other than there was a committee meeting this evening and that legislation will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had Item #2, which is the first reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$88,000.00 for the City's reimbursement to Sunrush Enterprises, LLC for the infrastructure improvement expenses in accordance with Ordinance #70-02 and declaring an emergency. He said he will also ask at the appropriate time that Council waive the three-read rule in order to get this passed tonight.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have anything on the agenda. She said that they did, however, have a committee meeting before tonight's City Council meeting, and there will be several items that will be on the next regular Council meeting's agenda.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee had no items on the agenda this evening. She said they did have a prior committee meeting since the last Council meeting in regards to #20-052, #20-054 and #20-056 which have been turned into the Law Director to be legislation for the next Council meeting. She said they also had a meeting prior to this meeting discussing #21-063 which will also be on the next Council meeting's agenda. She stated that other than that she had 5th Ward news, and that is the 5th Street water tower looks very nice, freshly painted and said congrats to the Utilities Department for how nice it looks, and she knows it has been a long project and good job.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Utilities Committee did not have anything on the agenda tonight and actually he did not have anything new to report.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that he would like to report on tonight's brief agenda and would like to ask for Council's support for the passage of all three items tonight with waiver of three-read rule on all three items, especially Item #2, which is something that Council actually something Council considered last year and he believes consented to last year but was just an appropriate that needed to happen. He thanked Auditor Spetnagel for her work in compiling the Tax Budget for Item #3 in a rather odd 18 months to budget to say the least. HE said he would ask for favorable votes on those items tonight.

Mayor Feeney said he had a few items to report in City business. He said that large item pick-up is not complete and that hopefully after a year where we were not able to offer large item pick-up that is something that citizens were able to take advantage of. He said that he thinks that Council can expect at some point within the next several months a conversation about how we approach large item pick-up in the future. He said this year maybe more than most he was cognizant of, and we did receive a variety of calls just based on the appearance and sort of difficulty on the management side of it, making sure appliances are appropriate and that sort of thing. He said it is a similar consideration with the Renick Avenue yard waste site where we are able to offer something and it gets a lot of use, but it does get abused to some extent, too. He said there is a balance that we need to strike and he thinks Council should weigh in on both of those items in the coming months to make sure we continue to offer great services to the community, while making sure that the City stays clean and we are also not taken advantage of. He said thanks to the Refuse Department and everybody who really has to do a lot of extra work for those five weeks to get that stuff picked up.

Mayor Feeney also said he would like to offer information to Council and thanks to some folks on the City's side for a couple of grants we have put in recently. He said we have applied for the COPS Grant which we have been a couple of cycles without receiving. The grant application was pulled together by Captain Short, Transit Director Powell, our MORPC intern through Ohio University, and our intern from last summer who is back working part-time as the Administration seasonal employee. He said if we are successful, we will be able to increase our Police staffing through that grant by four officers, and he said he thinks we should know by fall if we are successful in that, and it will be for a period of three to four years. He said similarly a team of Transit Director Powell and the MORPC intern and former intern helped pull together an application for a grant supporting social determinance of health. He said we wrote it around supporting planning within the community, tying together various agencies to sort of look at and build out community planning in a way that supports activity. He said Ross County ranks in the lowest 10% in terms of health outcomes in the state, and the State of Ohio is behind the rest of the country. He said they helped pull together a really nice application that would support some staffing around planning. He said those two applications were submitted since the last meeting.

Mayor Feeney stated that the 2021 Summer Paving began with curb ramps and that for a couple of weeks you will see the installation of ADA compliant curb ramps. He said for those of you who are not familiar, the City's practice is as we are milling and filling and upgrading streets, any street that is on that list we take the opportunity to improve the accessibility at those intersections by installing ADA compliant curb ramps. He said eventually we will have a city full of ADA compliant curb ramps. He said that paving will start a couple weeks afterwards.

Mayor Feeney said the last thing he wanted to report on is kind of fun. He said over the past nine months, the Transit system has been involved in an innovation tract that has been supported by Harvard University and Bloomberg philanthropies wherein they have a team of about 10-12 City employees and a Council person who have been redesigning and rethinking or Transit system. He said that their stated goal is to be the best in class rural transit system, meaning that we are providing a service in transportation that really delivers for all of our community residents and fills the needs of the community. He said he believes we have a great Transit system as it stands now and when this process of over he thinks everybody is going to be excited to see what they have come up with. He said that within that Transit system there are two prototypes being tested over the next two weeks. He said there is actually a prototype being tested this week, which is prototyping an on-demand system, which is similar to an Uber-type system. He said we have an operable app and that is going on now. He said the team that he has been a part of will be prototyping next Thursday and Friday a downtown trolley. On Thursday and Friday of next week they will be prototyping a downtown trolley which would be eventually, if successful and possible, a part of the Chillicothe Transit System. He said you can look on social media for more details about that. He said it will be open to the public and they will be taking some surveys and hoping to get excitement and enthusiasm, questions, and feedback around both the on-demand system and the trolley system.

Mayor Feeney said effective July 1 the state legislation that allowed for any sort of remote public meetings expired, so going forward any type of administrative or administration-related meeting, such as Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Design Review Board, those are back to being in-person and reverting to the traditional Sunshine Law rules.

President Arnold asked about the fireworks.

Mayor Feeney said they were fantastic and that gives him the opportunity to thank everybody that was a part of making the return to fireworks this year safe, first and foremost, and fun for everybody to get out. He said it seemed to him that there were more people than every downtown and around downtown. He said thanks also to Parks & Recreation Director, Bill Bonner and Clint Boggs for the pool party which requires a lot of planning and went off without a hitch as well. He said thanks to all who helped make it a fun, memorable and safe night.

Mayor Feeney added that he did want to follow-up on Councilwoman Lewis's report on the 5th Street water tower. He said she humbly forgot to mention that she actually was the graphic designer behind getting that logo on the water tower and he just wanted to thank her for lending her pro bono services to the City.

Report of City Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel said she had one item on the agenda tonight which is a Resolution adopting the Tax Budget. She said this is a forecast of next year, which is used by the County Auditor to apportion property taxes in local government fund shares. She said it is required that this be passed by July 15th so she asked that it get passed tonight. She said it is also required that a public hearing be held, which they did prior to this meeting.

Auditor Spetnagel said one thing she forgot to talk about during the public hearing is that they received a grant from an organization that is helping them build a module that will help them create a 10-year budget. She said that is something that the City has never had. She said for the last couple of months she and the Mayor have been meeting with a consultant trying to get this module completed. She said they have the ability to use a lot of resources, and they have a lot of connections that can help them come up with better projections. She said once that module is done, she wants to bring it in to Council and go through it with them and show them, because it will be interesting to finally have a 10-year budget available.

Auditor Spetnagel said that Council will be getting the June financial statements. She said she emails those out monthly and that they will be getting those by the end of this week. She said if they review it and have any questions to feel free to call her.

She said she did submit a committee assignment because they did apply for the American Rescue Funds, and they will need to have a committee meeting to discuss how those will be spent. She said the committee request is just to be able to accept and appropriate those funds and to be able to create a special fund to account for those

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that he did not have anything to report other than he hopes that everybody had a good July 4th.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Melody Lapczynski of 355 Brennan Road in Chillicothe, Ohio stated that she wanted to give another Purple Heart City update. She said thank you for all that Council did to get through this process and that she is moving forward and has been talking with different Veterans organizations, the Veterans Commission and the Veterans Council. She said she is pursuing different venues with them as to placement of a monument. She said it looks like we will be able to one put in at either the Veterans Park or possibly the head of the entrance to the Yoctangee Park. She said she is looking at the avenues in conjunction with the Veterans Council and the Veterans Commission and she just wanted to keep Council apprised of that.

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the receipt of a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the issuance of a permit and Transfer of Ownership from Thomas R. Lemaster DBA: Giovanni's Pizza Walk In Cooler & Patio, located at 423 Western Avenue, transferring to Mi Les Chillicothe, LLC DBA: Giovanni's Pizza Walk In Cooler & Patio, located at 423 Western Avenue.

There were no objections by Council to this permit application.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold announced that the next Council meeting will be Monday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 Service: Request for legislation to increase hours of part-time Law Director Clerk in emergency situations.

Finance: Request for legislation to appropriate funds to cover increase in costs to City-wide insurance policies.

Finance: Request for legislation to adopt the Tax Budget for FY 2022

Safety Service: Request for legislation to appropriate \$15,000 to Safety Levy Capital / Fire to budget for fire station repair bills and improvements

Safety Service: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate \$3,807.36 received from High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas to reimburse for overtime

Safety Service: Request for legislation to appropriate \$53,460 to Safety Levy Capital / Police to pay for the 2021 AXON bill

Transit: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate CARES funds allocation for the Transit Department

Safety Service: Request for legislation to appropriate \$900 to Safety Levy Capital / Fire for a refrigerator for Station 4.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 38-21 appropriating funds to cover an increase in costs for City-wide insurance policies 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. 38-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 39-21 appropriating funds in the amount of \$88,000.00 for the City's reimbursement to Sunrush Enterprises, LLC for infrastructure improvement expenses in accordance with Ordinance #70-02 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker moved and Ms. Gillum 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. 39-21 adopted.

Res. No. 13-21 adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2022, submitting the same to the County Auditor, 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 Resolution No. 13-21 adopted.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Council enter into an executive session to discuss the possible purchase of a property for the City. All eight members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. At 7:31 p.m. the executive session was conducted for the stated purpose.

At 7:56 p.m. Council returned to the Council meeting. Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that Council go out of 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.

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 7:57 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council