

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
August 9, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

President Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Payne seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of July 26, 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 had Item #4, which is the first reading of an Ordinance accepting the material terms of the One Ohio Subdivision Settlement pursuant of the One Ohio Memorandum of Understanding and consistent with the terms of the July 21, 2021 National Opioid Settlement Agreement and declaring an emergency. He said that at the appropriate time, since this is time sensitive for the City, he would be asking that they waive the three-read rule.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda; however, she did have a new assignment that is regarding looking into bringing back the Development Director for the City. She said there was a committee meeting prior to Council to discuss bringing back the Development Director’s position. She added that this is an existing position that has been vacant for a couple of years. As we are moving forward with a Master Plan for the City, this position is basically a critical position, especially when we are looking at applying for grant monies to assist and support all of the departments in the planning process and development.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee had Item #3 on the agenda, which is the first reading of a Resolution naming the City of Chillicothe appointment to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee, with Dave Fishel being the Mayor’s appointment. She said that at the appropriate time she will be asking to waive the three-read rule because of the deadline being August 20, 2021. Ms. Nickerson stated that also at the appropriate time she would like to ask to waive the three-day receipt rule and present Council with an assignment regarding the Tiffin property. She said the Development Committee held a public meeting on August 2, 2021 to discuss the assignment #21-069, which is the request to appropriate funds and purchase the property located at 145 South Bridge Street, which is the former Tiffin property. She said the request is for \$300,000 for appropriation of approximately seven acres within the City. She added that the committee is in agreement that this will be a good opportunity for the City to play a serious role in the future development in this neighborhood in our community. She said she would ask Council to support the request to proceed with the acquisition of this property, and due to the nature of the purchase, she would also like to request to waive the three-read rule at the appropriate time.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that Council waive the three-day receipt rule for committee assignment #21-069 and for it to be added to the agenda as Item #5. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Finance Committee did not have any items on the agenda tonight and that would conclude his report.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee had Item #2, which is the first reading of an Ordinance accepting the donation of property located northeast of the Poland Park parking lot on South Hickory Street. She said that they had a committee meeting for this and that the City is already maintaining this piece of property at the park. She stated that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule so that they can get moving on the acquisition of the land.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have anything on the agenda and nothing new to report.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee had Item #1 on the agenda, which is the second reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$120,899.20 for the City's share of the costs for improvements to the Law Enforcement Center and declaring an emergency. She said that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule. She also stated that there was a committee meeting last week in regards to #21-065 that pertains to vehicle charging stations. She said she would also like to call a committee meeting for next Monday, August 16th at 7:00 pm in regards to #21-066 which concerns approving trash receptacles for downtown, #20-095 about taxi cabs, and #20-107 for recycling.

Utilities Committee:

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

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that reporting on tonight's agenda, the first item is following up on the appropriation for the Law Enforcement Center. It is a commitment we have made and he would ask for Council's positive support. He said Item #2 to some extent is a clerical matter and as Councilwoman Corcoran had mentioned we are already maintaining this property. He said he had originally communicated with Director Bonner to see if there were a better use for this property such as potentially transferring to the Land Bank or some other potential property owner. He said based on the size and nature of the property being a part of Poland Park is its best use. He said he would ask for Council's favorable vote on Item #2. He said that Item #3 is associated with Ohio Public Works Commission funds, which have been used in the years past to complete projects or to support projects, with this year's project being stormwater paving and sidewalk work on Watt Street. The current appointee is Dean Carroll and the suggestion here is to replace him with David Fishel, and he said he would ask for Council's favorable support. He said he is not going to comment on Item #4. Mayor Feeney said that Item #5, which is for land acquisition, and Item #6, which is for vehicle and equipment acquisition, and then there is also an aggregating legislation, Item #7, that will consolidate those two items into one proceeding for borrowing. He said following up on Councilwoman Nickerson's comments, particularly related to the nature of the purchase of property and the urgency of these matters. He said in discussing with the Auditor on both of these items, he is of the personal opinion that we probably can afford to wait two weeks. He also said that another thing that we will want to be certain on is the language of the bonds and the incorporation of the specificity of the land being acquired. He said if there is a necessity to name the parcels, for which there are several, he would want to make sure that the legislation is airtight. A supplemental legislation could also be necessary when the borrowing happens. He said the other piece of legislation, Item #5, is authorizing the borrowing of amounts that were already appropriated with the exception of one piece of equipment, which is a mower. He stated that it would be possible to waive the three-day receipt rule on that legislation so that they could get one reading in at tonight's meeting if they so choose to do so. He said then they could get a second reading for both of them at the next Council meeting, but he said he would defer to the Auditor on whether or not that would be appropriate for tonight.

Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Council waive the three-day receipt rule for the legislation regarding the \$932,390 vehicle and equipment acquisition and for it to be added to

the agenda as Item #6. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Feeney stated that the most important thing he would like to report on is a recap of the Community Response Team meeting that was held last week. He said he asked all participants to start their comments with a win, because he knew bad news was coming, and it was, He said our Health Commissioner, Garrett Guillozet, gave an update on the most recent COVID news, particularly as it relates to Ross county and Chillicothe. He said the summary of it is for actionable items, the City will be returning in all of its public buildings to requiring masks of both the public and employees. He said we will be putting out a release on our page along with shared publicly of the other community entities that have also signed on to make this decision. He said that obviously things are moving very quickly with this variant and we are doing this with excessive caution and care for the community. He said for him personally what he has most in mind is students returning to school and sort of making sure that we as the public and the areas that we can control step things up so that kids this year can return to school and have the closest and best to school experience that they can. He said he thinks by some of us taking on some discomfort and annoyance and retuning to masks, it is something that we probably had all pitched and hoped we would never use again. He said he thinks hopefully we can impact some of that. He said to look for the communication from the City and other community partners coming out in the next day or so and those new signs up in the City building. He said to end on a positive note, he wanted to wish everybody a happy fair week.

Report of City Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel stated that she had three pieces of legislation. One, for \$932,390 which is for the actual purchase of equipment that was already included in the budget with an additional lawn mower. She said the second piece is for the \$300,000 land purchase, and the third one is consolidating those two bonds.

Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Council waive the three-day receipt rule for the additional legislation consolidating the two bond issues of the City of Chillicothe and for it to be added to the agenda as Item #7. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Law Director Villarreal stated that they had discussed her office’s request for emergency legislation at the committee meeting prior to the City Council meeting and she just wanted to reiterate the necessity to pass Item #4 tonight so that they can get the signed documents to the appropriate parties prior to the August 13th deadline. She added that this is a hard deadline they have to meet in order for the City to be included in any of those settlement disbursements.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that the Ross County Fair is going on this week, and that he hopes everyone enjoys all of its food, activities, demonstrations, displays and everything that is out there.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Melody Lapczynski of 355 Brennan Road of Chillicothe. She said she wanted to provide another Purple Heart update. She had met with the Veterans Council recently and they have approved putting a monument into Veterans Park. She said the next step is the Veterans Commission for approval, as well as the Parks & Recreation Board meeting, both of which are this month. She stated that she had spoken to the Safety Service Director, Jeff Carman, about signage and that she would like to roll funding for that into the capital campaign that she is going to be starting around August 18th to raise the miscellaneous amounts that are due for the monument and things of that nature. She said that they are not going to make the September 12th date because of getting approvals from the different Councils and Commissions, but she is still hoping for October.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

There will be a City Services Committee meeting Monday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

President Arnold announced that the next Council meeting will be Monday, August 23rd 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:

Finance: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and to create a new account for tracking purposes.

Transit: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate \$22,000.00 awarded by the 2021 AARP Community Challenge Grant to the Transit Department.

Development: Request for legislation to name City of Chillicothe's appointment to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee with David Fishel being the Mayor's appointment.

Human Resources: Request for legislation to adjust and update the Non-Bargaining Ordinance for the position of Development Director for the City.

Community Affairs: Request for legislation to approve the signing of the One Ohio Subdivision Settlement.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 49-21 appropriating \$120,899.20 for the City's share of the costs for improvements to the Law Enforcement Center and declaring an emergency was read for the second 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. 49-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 50-21 accepting the donation of property located northeast of the Poland Park parking lot on South Hickory Street 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 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. 50-21 adopted.

Res. No. 15-21 naming the City of Chillicothe appointment to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Nickerson 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. 15-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 51-21 accepting the material terms of the One Ohio Subdivision Settlement pursuant of the One Ohio Memorandum of Understanding and consistent with the terms of the July 21, 2021 National Opioid Settlement Agreement and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Phillips moved and Ms. Payne 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. 51-21 adopted.

An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$300,000 land acquisition bonds for the purpose of acquiring land for municipal purposes, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

Ord. No. 52-21 authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$932,390 vehicle and equipment acquisition bonds for the purpose of acquiring certain vehicles and equipment, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto, 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 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. 52-21 adopted.

An Ordinance consolidating two bond issues of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Nickerson 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 7:47 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council