

Council met via video conference in regular session with all nine members present: Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Gillum, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. Also, in attendance were Mayor Feeney, City Law Director Villarreal, City Auditor Spetnagel and Fire Chief Knotts. 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. Payne moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 24, 2020 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Safety Service Committee:**

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #6 which is an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$1,000.00 in grant funds received from the Public Entities Pool of Ohio Insurance and declaring an emergency, and also Item #7 which is an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$492.61 received from the Chillicothe Country Club as reimbursement for expenses relating to the Fire Inspector’s presence at their fireworks display and declaring an emergency. Ms. Gillum stated that at the appropriate times she will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass these items tonight.

### **Development Committee:**

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee did not have any items on the agenda; therefore, there was nothing to report.

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

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had an item on the agenda, Item #4, which is a resolution authorizing the tax levies for the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021, as determined by the Ross County Budget Commission, certifying said levies to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency. Mr. Proehl stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass the item tonight. He also mentioned that there were four requests received by the Finance Committee that will be moving forward to the Law Director’s office soon so that they can be ready in time for the next regular Council meeting.

### **Engineering Committee:**

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #8, which is the first reading of an ordinance approving conversion of the traffic pattern from one-way to two-way street traffic on East and West Second Street between Mulberry and Walnut Streets. Also, Item #9 which is also the first reading of an ordinance approving and accepting the dedication of an alley for public purposes, accepting the improvements for public use and maintenance of said alley and establishing the name “Hinton Way”.

### **Utilities Committee:**

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee had one item on the agenda for the third reading, but stated that there are a lot of questions about this item. For that reason, Mr. Tatman stated that at this time he would request that Council postpone this legislation indefinitely.

Mr. Shoemaker asked what the outcome of postponement is.

President Arnold answered that at this point, postponement means that this piece of the legislation, as it is, dies; it doesn’t come back as it exists. President Arnold thanked Mr. Shoemaker for asking the question, because he would like to have that clarified. He restated that at this point it gets put away and it dies. After this postponement and it “dies” he will reassign it as a new assignment for Council to go over, scrutinize, and have it reviewed before it actually comes back to Council.

Mr. Shoemaker thanked President Arnold and said he applauds Mr. Tatman for that and everyone else for making that possible.

Mr. Tatman moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that Item #2 on the agenda be postponed indefinitely. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Mr. Tatman then asked if the members of the Utilities committee would agree to remove it from their committee. Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Proehl stated that they were in agreement to have this legislation taken out of their committee for reassignment.

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

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had a few items on the agenda, Item #1, which is the third reading for adding Section 917.20, Duty to Collect and Dispose of Items After Eviction, to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio. Also, Item #10, which is appropriating \$9,000.00 for HVAC repairs at the City Administration Building and declaring an emergency. Ms. Lewis stated that at the appropriate time she will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass the item tonight because the Administration Building is without air conditioning at the present time. And finally, Item #11, which is the first reading for an ordinance appropriating \$30,000.00 for Public Lands & Buildings natural gas expenses for the remainder of the year and declaring an emergency. Ms. Lewis stated that she will also request to waive the three-read rule, because it is an expense that needs to be paid to cover all of the public buildings that the City owns for the rest of the year.

#### **Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have any items on the agenda; therefore, there was nothing to report.

#### **Human Resources Committee:**

Ms. Payne reported that the Human Resources Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #3, which is the second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant personal leave (PTO) to new or rehired non-bargaining employees who have extended experience or knowledge.

#### **Parks / Recreation / Tourism Committee:**

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #5 which is the first reading of an ordinance appropriating \$10,500.00 for the renovation of two restroom roofs in Yoctangee Park and declaring an emergency. Ms. Corcoran stated that at the appropriate time she will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass the item tonight so that they can have it done before the weather sets in.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

#### **Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney said that he would like to make a couple of quick comments on some of the items in front of Council. He stated that he had sent an email regarding the committee assignment pertaining to Utilities; this item had an amendment at the last meeting. He also stated that he and the Utilities Director went line by line and tried to get a sense of the impact that the amendment as presented would have, and they found that there were really just too many different portions of that legislation affected. They also found some other things along the way and other suggested changes that they thought would be prudent to make. He said that since Council is by and large a new group and this legislation was shrouded in a lot of confusion over the basic essence of what it was doing. He thanked Councilman Tatman for that motion and Council’s decision to remand it and take it as new so that all of Council can understand and be part of the process.

Mayor Feeney stated that there were a couple of items today that were suggested to be passed on the waiver of the three-read rule, including some related to air conditioning and some related to seasonal type issues, and he supports those matters. He said that before this Council meeting there was a meeting to discuss CARES Act funding for the community. He said that communities across Ohio, as well as the country, are working through this as far as how to take this money that was allocated very quickly by Congress but without a lot of guidance. The City has worked through this with lots of community partners on how to be most impactful in this community. He said he thinks that Council will set a meeting for next Monday night to talk about how we can move through spending

that money for the good of the community. He encouraged anyone on Council to reach out to either him or Auditor Spetnagel if they have any ideas on how we can help or if they know about entities within the community that need help, because we want to make sure we get the necessary help to the right places.

Mayor Feeney said that a couple of items of note for Council and for the community is that the City has two important members moving on. The first is Donna Vernier, who has been the Transit Director for several years, is taking a job with the federal government which is who she came to the City from. She had been with Homeland Security and is going back to the federal government. He stated that she has really done a nice job at Transit bringing financial reporting stability and progressing that agency. The City has added important layers of management while she has been there, and we are in the middle of a new route study and layout proposal that will be coming to the community soon. He added that Donna will be missed both in the administration and for what she has brought to the Transit system, and he thanked her for her service to the City. The other person is Paul Gillum, the City's IT Director, who was with the City for about a year and was the City's first ever IT Director. Paul has moved onto the private sector, and Mayor Feeney said that he can't thank him enough for all he has done to bring us along; especially, since he was the first in his position which can be a challenge. He added that before him, the City essentially operated like the Wild West when it came to IT issues. He did a lot and interacted with Council quite a bit, and recently put a proposal before Council to improve the IT situation in the Administration Building. Mayor Feeney said that after having an IT person they realized how truly valuable they are, and they will move quickly to work through getting a contract with a temporary place to ensure immediate needs are met. He stated that the Civil Service list that he was hired from as part of Civil Service procedure has expired, and so they are going to need to work though how to get somebody back in that role, especially now when everything is remote and virtual, they will become very dependent upon. He added best of wishes to both of them, they will be missed, and they really did serve our community well, and thank you to Donna and Paul for all they have done for the City.

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

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she wanted to ask for Council's support for the air conditioning, because her office is located in the basement; and, not only do they not have air conditioning, but they also have flooding. With those things combined you get humidity that is horrible and clogs up the printers, and all of their dehumidifiers are starting to fail. So needless to say, they really need to get some air down there. City Auditor Spetnagel also stated that she will be doing a budget review before Council on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Finally, she stated that she had one item on the agenda regarding the tax levies, and she asked for Council's support on that because it is something that they do annually that has to be passed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

City Law Director Villarreal stated that City Council Members have been keeping her office very, very busy. They have received a ton of paperwork from committees, and they are trying to get it addressed. She stated that they are back up to full speed and are finally able to keep on top of everything again. She added that she appreciates getting that back up and running again. Law Director Villarreal said that they have a lot of Civil things going on as well in her office that they are trying to get addressed but that they are definitely keeping her office very busy.

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

President Arnold said that the two people who have left the City are going to be very missed. Paul Gillum had been running the Council meetings recently and was a big help, and both of them will be missed.

President Arnold stated that Council will be getting back into discussing the facilities, our areas of the City, our buildings, lands, etc..., to try to come up with something that looks like a long-term projection for what we can do with these things. They can get some sort of plan, some sort of idea, or some things to throw out and maybe get some goals to work towards.

### **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. He also invited anyone who would like to be added to his mailing list to contact him directly.

## COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold stated that there will be a meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. which will address the CARES Act spending, as well as the facilities discussion.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., and there will also be a budget review meeting prior to that at 6:30 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:

**Finance:** Request for legislation authorizing the tax levies

**Finance:** Request for legislation to appropriate \$5,000.00 to pay back funds to the Treasurer of the State of Ohio for grant funds not expended in 2019 for street construction projects

**Finance:** Request for legislation to authorize the Mayor and Auditor to spend COVID-19 funding as incurred in accordance with the CARES Act guidelines

**Finance:** Request for legislation to accept and appropriate CARES Act funds for \$661,924.50

**Finance:** Request for legislation to release a security check for a fire at 1065 Cliffside Drive for repair work and inspection that has been completed

## READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No 73-20 adding Section 917.20, Duty to Collect and Dispose of Items After Eviction, to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio was read for the third time by title only. All nine members present voted "yea" on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 73-20 adopted.

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant personal leave (PTO) to new or rehired non-bargaining employees who have extended experience or knowledge was read for the second time by title only.

Res. No. 15-20 authorizing the tax levies for the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021, as determined by the Ross County Budget Commission, certifying said levies to the County Auditor, 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 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. 15-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 74-20 appropriating \$10,500.00 for the renovation of two restroom roofs in Yoctangee Park 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 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. 74-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 75-20 accepting and appropriating \$1,000.00 in grant funds received from the Public Entities Pool of Ohio Insurance and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Gillum moved and Mr. Proehl 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. 75-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 76-20 accepting and appropriating \$492.61 received from the Chillicothe Country Club as reimbursement for expenses relating to the Fire Inspector's presence at their fireworks display and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Gillum moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. Eight of the nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. Eight of the nine members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 76-20 adopted. (Ms. Nickerson was temporarily unable to vote due to technical difficulties)

An Ordinance approving conversion of the traffic pattern from one-way to two-way street traffic on East and West Second Street between Mulberry and Walnut Streets was read for the first time by title only.

An Ordinance approving and accepting the dedication of an alley for public purposes, accepting the

improvements for public use and maintenance of said alley and establishing the name “Hinton Way” was read for the first time by title only.

Ord. No. 77-20 appropriating \$9,000.00 for HVAC repairs at the City Administration Building and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Payne 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. 77-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 78-20 appropriating \$30,000.00 for Public Lands & Buildings natural gas expenses for the remainder of the year and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Gillum 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. 78-20 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Gillum seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

---

Clerk of Council

---

President of Council

