

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 and City Auditor Spetnagel. Law Director Villarreal was absent. 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 Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 2020 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks / Recreation / Tourism Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation 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 #9, which is the first reading of an ordinance amending Section 137.21 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio titled “Residency Requirements” and declaring an emergency. She said this revision of the requirements section will assist with the recruiting of qualified individuals seeking employment with the City. Ms. Payne stated that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule.

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #10, which is the first reading of a resolution supporting the use of the municipal parking lot located at the corner of Paint and Fourth Streets by the Mighty Children’s Museum for their annual ice skating rink beginning November 15, 2020 and ending not later than February 15, 2021 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Phillips stated that so they can begin doing what they need to do in order to prepare, he will ask at the appropriate time to waive the three-read rule.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee did not have any items on the agenda to report. She stated that they met last week to discuss two items that will be on the next Council agenda to be approved. Also, she stated that they are discussing an item regarding reassessing the rules for taxicabs, and Ms. Lewis indicated she will call a meeting at a later date to go over it once she has collected all of the information.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He stated that they just had a meeting regarding the money to be spent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$750,000, and that it will hopefully be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Tatman indicated that he is still holding onto Committee Assignment #20-098, which is the request for legislation to revise and approve the Utilities Department rules and regulations. He said they have not yet gotten together to work on that, but he said that will be done in the near future.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had seven items on the agenda: Item #1, which is the third 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. Items #2, which is a third 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”. Item #3, which is the second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a parking services agreement between the City of Chillicothe and ParkMobile, LLC, designating ParkMobile, LLC, as the merchant of record for processing credit/debit card payments, and declaring an emergency. Item #4, which is the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 353.07: Deposit of Coin Required; Illegal Parking of the Codified Ordinances and authorizing the Safety Service Director to establish alternative parking fee payment methods. Item #5, which is a second reading of an ordinance authorizing the modification of metered and unmetered parking zones, replacement or removal of parking meters, and amending Section 353.02 of the Codified Ordinances. Item #6, which is a second reading of an ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 for the City’s reimbursement of Sunrush Enterprises, LLC’s expenses for infrastructure improvements in accordance with Ordinance 70-02 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Shoemaker stated that at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule. Finally, Item #8, which is the first reading of an ordinance giving consent to the Director of Transportation to complete the ROS-159 Signal Upgrade Project within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe and declaring an emergency. Mr. Shoemaker stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass the item tonight.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had an item that Council needed to reconsider, Committee Assignment #20-093 (Ordinance #82-20) which was a request to accept and appropriate CARES Act grant funds as received. He indicated that the “as received” language was left out and needed to be added, as well as make a correction to the account number.

Mr. Proehl made a motion seconded by Mr. Shoemaker to reconsider Ordinance #82-20 with the specified changes that were brought forward as indicated. All nine members present voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 82-20 approved as reconsidered with the specified changes.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #7, which is the first reading for an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$5,070.00 received as payoff of a CHIP mortgage and declaring an emergency.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have any items on the agenda. She said that they will have a couple of items for the next meeting and that she just needed to clarify where some funds were coming from beforehand with Auditor Spetnagel.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney said that he would start with an ordinance that has been in front of City Council for quite some time in different iterations, which is the conversion of the traffic pattern from one-way to two-way on Second Street. He states that he thinks that the process by which this ordinance was considered is exemplary of how the City can really undertake a lot of the more significant changes that we have to make. He added that this is an item, although it is just a street, that evokes considerable emotion. He said to be honest he doesn’t know that anybody is wrong with the emotion that it brings out. He stated that a street going from one-way to two-way is something that can be difficult to get used to because it is something that has worked one-way for a long time. He said that anybody who has voiced a reluctance for change to that direction is a valid concern. He said he also thinks that this started well before he was ever in government. He said that in 2017, the Town Builders organization visited Chillicothe to explore and give recommendations and best practices. They talked about parking, moving through space and really approached it from a city planning perspective. He stated that the City has had people invest and develop on Second Street over the past several years. Over that time, he has thought a lot about it, and in his role he tries to often remove his personal opinion from the equations. He said that what was first presented to Council several years ago was a change to Second Street that involved significant expense and new traffic lights. He stated that the proposal that Council has in front of them now is really an evolution of that original proposal that really considers not only the movement of traffic but also the movement of pedestrians downtown. He said he really thinks in addition it considers the support of several important groups that are all focused on downtown. These groups include the Downtown Development Commission, Downtown Chillicothe, and the Chamber of Commerce all of which

have supported or endorsed this change. He said that some of the concerns he has heard are related to the expense and the importance of where we prioritize our money. He said that in this situation the cost has been significantly reduced based on the fact that Second Street is on an approach to be paved anyway and resurfaced as a part of the City's annual program. The changes proposed are significantly reduced because of that matter. He said he would like to thank Council, the Engineering Department, anyone who has worked on this project, and the people on Second Street who have voiced an opinion one way or the other. He said he thinks it is really important for us to get feedback. He said he is so confident in the process that took place that he is going to ask for Council's favorable vote on this matter. He said that he thinks it shows that the City is listening as people want to develop downtown, he thinks it has an eye and a feel for moving people, getting the flow of traffic downtown. Particularly as downtown continues to develop, it makes travel for people from out of town significantly easier and that is something we need to take an eye to. He added that something to keep in mind, we have two more parallel streets, Fourth and Fifth, that are also one-way, and as we start to take one street and make it one-way to two-way the logic of the other starts to potentially fail. As we think about planning for the community those other streets are something that we should consider for the future if Second Street does pass tonight.

Mayor Feeney said that Item #2 regarding the naming of an alley Hinton Way is nice recognition for an excellent coach and a feel-good story, and so he will ask for Council's favorable vote. Item #6 is regarding an outstanding invoice that the City has had for some time. They have worked with the Law Director and the people who have worked to get this project done many years ago, and he said he would ask for Council's favorable vote and waiver of the three-read rule on that item so they can get that bill paid. Item #7 is an item that he didn't know if he heard a request for waiver of the three-read rule or not, but feels that it is essentially a formality and would ask for support on its passage and likewise for Item #8. For Item #9, he wanted to apologize to Councilwoman Payne because he believed that the Administration put forward a request that may have been framed in some urgency that is not necessary, and for this reason he asked that Item #9 go to another read instead of passing tonight. He said the request is essentially modifying the City's ordinances around residency in safety services, which currently states an adjacent county. The request is to change it to 50 air miles. He said there are arguments on both sides and that it would be a healthy conversation for them to have as Council. He apologized that he was unable to make the committee meeting where it was discussed, but he would appreciate it if there was another chance to talk about that one as a group. Item #10, he said he would ask for Council's support on this issue. He said he really appreciates everyone's time and consideration on that matter. He said that the value the Mighty Children's Museum brings hosting this event and using City space, particularly in this environment, outweighs the detriment. Business owners in the neighborhood who have voiced encouragement for this do face a lot of uncertainty themselves, and the concept that they will revisit this in January to see if they extend it another month was a nice compromise. He said he would like to thank the Mighty Children's Museum for adding this value to the community, and he also thanks everybody who was flexible on this matter and this time.

Mayor Feeney said he had the pleasure of announcing that the City has a new Police Chief, Chief Ron Meyers. He said he is a great person who will do well on the job. The Police Department has really stepped up during this hard time, not only because of the pandemic, but because of the number of people who have moved on. He stated that we had two great options in the two candidates that applied. He thanked both who applied and to Ron for stepping up.

Mayor Feeney said he also had the pleasure of announcing the City's new Transit Director, Asti Powell. He said she is coming to us from the Ross County Health District and has experience not only in public health but also in grant writing and past transit experience. She has a Bachelors in Planning and a Masters in Public Administration, and is going to be a real value to the City as a whole and to Transit in particular. He said there are large shoes to fill coming after Donna, and we welcome her next week.

Mayor Feeney announced the details regarding Halloween. He said that as this is a year full of change, he said he is going to announce it with this caveat. He said as we all know Ross County has been designated "red" by the state. As of right now Halloween and trick-or-treat are still on, and all of the same rules that would have applied do apply such as social distancing, spacing, small groups, going with your family, masks, etc... He said he would encourage everybody to be respectful of families and homes that decide not to participate this year. He indicated that the Health District, locally and across the state, have put forth some really good guidance for those of us who are maybe uncertain on how to pass out candy and how to collect candy. He said his first suggestion would be that if you are uncertain or uncomfortable to figure out a trick-or-treat alternative at home. He said that the Health District, townships, City, and other villages in Ross County have come up with is what is seen as the healthiest option which is essentially a communitywide trick-or-treat night where everybody in the community is encouraged to trick-or-treat at the same time. That date will be

Thursday, October 29th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. He said there is lots of conversation about how last year's back-up plan of using the Saturday worked really well, but there are significant reasons to do it on a Thursday night that include health; and, of course this year the main focus is our public health, health of the children, and health of those passing out candy. He said that they will have information up and shared communitywide, and of course if the guidance changes on the level "red" status we will update you.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she did not have anything on the agenda today but that she wanted to let everyone know that she sent out a tentative 2021 budget meeting schedule. Prior to tonight's meeting she had mentioned that Monday, October 19th at 6:00 pm will be a budget meeting for City Council, Fire Department and Engineering Department to present their budgets. She stated that just to briefly explain how it works, that in August her office sends out a request to all of the departments to start working on their budgets with a deadline to submit all of the information to the Auditor's office. She said it includes capital, personnel, and operating expenses. She said they are thinking about doing a temporary budget this year, but that they are going to go ahead and have departments present all of their wish lists, and then they will consolidate it all and have a full budget presentation to Council after everyone has presented individually.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that he had one thing he wanted to bring up. He said that the meeting before the last, meeting on September 14th, that Council passed Ordinance #75-20 that was from an original assignment #20-073. He said that for whatever reason it got onto the agenda and it was read and passed, but it was a duplicate. He said that Council had already passed the ordinance as Ordinance #56-20. He stated that #75-20, for all intents and purposes, is void and does not exist.

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. There were no participants during this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Corcoran said that she would just like to thank the Tree Commission and the Parks & Recreation Department. She said that last week they had their Fall Arbor Day because the Spring Arbor Day had been canceled. They had children from the 5th grade of the Chillicothe City Schools plant seven different trees around the Armory in Yoctangee Park. Ms. Corcoran said she would also like to thank the crews from Asplundh who came and showed the students how to take down a tree and how to use a sawmill wood-mizer. She added that there were people from ODNR as well as the wonderful volunteers with the Tree Commission who helped make it a successful day. She just would like to thank everybody with the schools and everybody who participated.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold stated that there will be a budget meeting on Monday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. If there is time afterwards, there will be a brief discussion with the Facilities study.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, October 26th at 7:00 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:

City Services: Request for legislation amending Section 137.21 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio titled "Residency Requirements" and declaring an emergency.

Finance: Request for legislation to authorize the City Auditor to move appropriated dollars between line items for salaries and fringes with the same fund for the remainder of 2020.

Utilities: Request for legislation to appropriate \$750,730.75 from Water and Sewer funds for various purchases and expenditures in Wastewater and Water facilities.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No 83-20 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 third time by title only. Eight of the nine members present voted “yea” on the item, with one of the nine members voting “nay”, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 83-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 84-20 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 third time by title only. All nine members present voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 84-20 adopted.

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a parking services agreement between the City of Chillicothe and ParkMobile, LLC, designating ParkMobile, LLC, as the merchant of record for processing credit/debit card payments, and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only.

An Ordinance amending Section 353.07: Deposit of Coin Required; Illegal Parking of the Codified Ordinances and authorizing the Safety Service Director to establish alternative parking fee payment methods was read for the second time by title only.

An Ordinance authorizing the modification of metered and unmetered parking zones, replacement or removal of parking meters, and amending Section 353.02 of the Codified Ordinances was read for the second time by title only.

Ord. No. 85-20 appropriating funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 for the City’s reimbursement of Sunrush Enterprises, LLC’s expenses for infrastructure improvements in accordance with Ordinance 70-02 and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker 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. 85-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 86-20 accepting and appropriating \$5,070.00 received as payoff of a CHIP mortgage 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 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. 86-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 87-20 giving consent to the Director of Transportation to complete the ROS-159 Signal Upgrade Project within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker 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. 87-20 adopted.

An Ordinance amending Section 137.21 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio titled “Residency Requirements” and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

Res. No. 17-20 supporting the use of the municipal parking lot located at the corner of Paint and Fourth Streets by the Mighty Children’s Museum for their annual ice skating rink beginning November 15, 2020 and ending not later than February 15, 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Phillips 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 Resolution No. 17-20 adopted.

Mayor Feeney announced that leaf pick-up for the City started today. He said that the annual leaf pick-up program was something that they did not strip out of the City’s operations. He said for the past four years the City has tried to do it on a schedule, and he stated that if you go to the City website and type in “leaf” in the search box you will be able to find the schedule. He added that as a reminder that the City is still doing on demand yard waste pick-up and Renick is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, but we still do the on-demand pick-up.

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 7:46 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council