

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 Auditor Spetnagel and Law Director Villarreal. 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 October 12, 2020 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #6, first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$753,730.75 from Water and Sewer funds for much needed repairs and declaring an emergency. Mr. Tatman stated that at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass this item tonight.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had several items on the agenda: Item #1, which is the third 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 #2, which is the third 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 #3, which is a third 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 #5, which is the first reading of a Resolution authorizing the appropriate City officials to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant Funds Program for the year 2021 for use toward street rehabilitation and improvements within the City of Chillicothe, to accept grant funds if awarded, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Shoemaker stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, seeking to pass this item tonight.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #9, which is the first reading of an Ordinance allowing the City Auditor to transfer appropriated dollars between salaries and fringes within the same fund if needed on an emergency basis for the remainder of the year 2020 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Proehl stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule so that all of this can flow smoothly.

Development Committee:

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

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but she said that they may have a couple of items for the next meeting’s agenda

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had two items on the agenda: Item #7, which is a first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$10,000.00 for refuse truck service and repairs and declaring an emergency. Item #8, which is the first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$4,000.00 for the repair of streetlights in the Downtown District and declaring an emergency. Ms. Lewis stated

that she will be requesting to waive the three-read rule for both of these items at the appropriate time, seeking to pass these items tonight.

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 #4, which is the second 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.

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.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney said that he supports Council for those items requesting to waive the three-read rule. He said he wanted to thank Council for their diligence, particularly in working with the downtown parking legislation, adding that it is a big change for the City.

Mayor Feeney reminded everyone that the City, County, and Health District-approved Trick-or-Treat was still on for Thursday, October 29th from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. He stated that he followed up with the Health District since Ross County is red presently and was reassured by both local and statewide health districts that trick-or-treating, particularly with extra precautions taken, is a safe endeavor this year. He said he did wish to offer a couple of tidbits of advice: 1) Parents if you do not feel good taking your kids trick-or-treating, stay home; it's okay. There are other options out there, so please do not feel forced to trick-or-treat this year. 2) If you don't want people to come to your door, please just turn off your light or set something on the front porch, but don't feel compelled to have person-to-person contact. 3) The City's Facebook page, the City's website, the Health District's website, as well as a few other areas, have information on safety guidelines on how to trick-or-treat safely. 4) The best practice is to stick to your neighborhood, don't go in big groups, and try to stick with your family or those who live in your household. 5) Please be respectful of those who want to participate and of those who don't.

Mayor Feeney stated that he was very appreciative of the cooperation with the Health District this year, and on that note and health related, he urged everyone to get their flu shot this year. The Health District will be having a drive thru flu shot clinic in the Yoctangee Park at the City pool parking lot from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday, October 27th.

Mayor Feeney said that the City has allocated grant funding to various community entities. He said that one of the really unique partnerships they have worked through over the past four months is a collaboration between Adena Health System and Chillicothe City School District, wherein the City, through its CARES Act money, has assisted in the hiring of additional nurses in the City School District. He said the current staffing has been overwhelmed by testing and the strange occurrences of COVID. The City has helped them to ramp up through the CARES Act, funding their ability to respond. Mayor Feeney added that the crucial thing is, that in addition to the COVID testing that they are already having to pay attention to and worrying about quarantining, we are heading square into the middle of flu season. There are going to be kids coming in with a variety of other symptoms, making separating the difference between the common flu and COVID a very challenging task. He said that anything we can do as a community to limit the transmission of the traditional flu as well as COVID now is an important and crucial thing. He thanked the school district for all they are doing to make sure the kids in the district are tested, families are taken care of, and reporting happens quickly.

Mayor Feeney stated another external grant the City has provided is one where the City and the County have allocated \$100,000 each of CARES Act funding in the first round to grant the Chamber of Commerce money to give out essentially business and nonprofit grants to those entities who have come upon challenging times, or have or can invest money to innovate in their delivery models. The

Chamber right now is processing \$200,000 from the City and the County. He said as of today there were around 47 applications, and he suspects those will continue coming in. He stated that the Governor announced last week that there will be between \$400 and \$500 million additional that would come from statewide funds to small businesses and that will help that fund. He said we have done a lot of work internally with CARES Act spending but those are just a couple of the external expenditures.

Mayor Feeney said that up to this point the City has discontinued water shut offs, and the Water Department has not been shutting off water accounts based on past due bills. The statewide mandate to prohibit water shut offs has been lifted, and the City is headed in that direction, too, for a couple of reasons. He said for one thing, we are seeing accounts accrue pretty large late bills, and we think part of the reason is that they haven't been compelled to catch up. We don't want people to have these massive bills when it is time to catch up. He said that the County has allocated significant funding through Community Action and Job & Family Services for anyone who is having trouble paying for their water bill because of discomfort they are experiencing through COVID. This is not an income only situation, so if you or anyone you know is facing difficulty paying their water bills, you can reach out to Community Action for assistance. He added that this information has gone out on our water bill cards, and we really want to promote it so that people can take advantage of it. He said it very likely in the coming days that the City will resume some version of water shut offs, which we are hopeful compels people to take advantage of this service that the Ross County Commissioners have graciously allocated some of their CARES Act funding towards.

Mayor Feeney said he wanted to thank Nate Green from the Montrose Group for giving the presentation on the Downtown Redevelopment Districts. He said that Mr. Green along with Deidra Nickerson, Bruce Arnold and himself have worked extensively on this. He said that Commissioner Neal and he have been working on it for three or four of years, and said that you can reach out to any of them if you have further questions.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she had one item on the agenda, Item #9, which is an Ordinance allowing the Auditor's Office to transfer appropriated dollars between salaries and fringes within the same fund. She said that this is something that they do every year around this time, so she would ask for Council's support on that. City Auditor Spetnagel also wanted to announce that on Monday, November 9, there will be another budget meeting for Municipal Court, Utilities and Transit, at 6:00 p.m.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

City Law Director Villarreal stated that for the first time in 2020 she did not have a report.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said he would like to echo the Mayor's comments about being safe for Trick-or-Treat, not only from the COVID virus but also to be safe in and around traffic while moving around. He said he has seen a lot of different ways on tv of how to make Halloween available in a safe way. President Arnold stated that he thinks we are all going to miss the Halloween parade.

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.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold stated that there will be a budget meeting on Monday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, November 9th 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 to review the refuse and recycling fees for dumpster and recycle bins and initiate legislation for setting rates if determined by the review

Engineering: Request for legislation for the City to apply for, accept, and approve grant funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission

Development: Request for legislation to establish the Downtown Redevelopment Districts within the Downtown Historic District.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 88-20 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 third time by title only. All nine members present voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 88-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 89-20 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 third time by title only. All nine members present voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 89-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 90-20 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 third time by title only. All nine members present voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 90-20 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 second time by title only.

Res. No. 18-20 authorizing the appropriate City officials to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant Funds Program for the year 2021 for use toward street rehabilitation and improvements within the City of Chillicothe, to accept grant funds if awarded, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker moved and Ms. Corcoran 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. 18-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 91-20 appropriating \$753,730.75 from Water and Sewer funds for much needed repairs and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Tatman 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. 91-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 92-20 appropriating \$10,000.00 for refuse truck service and repairs and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis 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. 92-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 93-20 appropriating \$4,000.00 for the repair of streetlights in the Downtown District and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis 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. 93-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 94-20 allowing the City Auditor to transfer appropriated dollars between salaries and fringes within the same fund if needed on an emergency basis for the remainder of the year 2020 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 Ordinance No. 94-20 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Payne seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council