

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
November 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

President Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Corcoran moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 25, 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 #1 which is a third reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$7,500.00 for the Ross County Reentry Coalition and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Ms. Gillum be excused from this Council meeting. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any new information to report on.

Development Committee:

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

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Finance / Technology Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #4, which is a first reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating insurance funds in the amount of \$4,095.78 and declaring an emergency. Also, Item #6, which is the first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$14,137.67 in insurance funds received as security as the result of a structure fire at 352 Zane Road, Chillicothe, Ohio, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Proehl stated that due to the nature of both of these items, at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee had Item #5, which is a first reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating a portion of the City’s ODNR Natureworks Grant in the amount of \$1,900.00 for appraisal costs related to the acquisition of 89 Riverside Street and declaring an emergency. She stated that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule.

President Arnold asked Mr. Fairrow if he had anything to report. Mr. Fairrow stated that he did not have anything to report.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee had Item #4 on the agenda, which was already read by Mr. Proehl, regarding accepting and appropriating insurance reimbursement funds of \$4,095.78.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated for Ms. Gillum that the Safety Service Committee had Item #2, which is a third reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$4,886.00 for the purchase of replacement chairs for the Chillicothe Police Department

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Engineering Committee did not have anything on the agenda tonight.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Utilities Committee had Item #3, which is a first reading of an Ordinance authorizing the City Auditor to transfer funds from one department to another within the Water and Sewer fund for the remainder of the year 2021 and declaring an emergency. He said at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule, because it is emergency legislation and he is sure that the Sewer Department can use the funds wisely.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney stated that he would speak a little more on Item #3 that Councilman Tatman had mentioned. He said that it is moving funds within the same Water and/or Sewer fund and is not a reappropriation. This is money that has already been appropriated at the beginning of the year. He said due to the course of business during the year the Utilities Director is asking to reallocate some of that money for better use, and City Auditor Spetnagel and possibly Director Fishel will speak a little more on that.

Mayor Feeney said he would like to thank the three presenters for tonight's budget presentations. He said over the next two weeks they will get through the majority of those and then the Administration will present its final budget. He said it will be an interesting year for several reasons, with one largely being the fact they are still in the middle of contract negotiations with all three Unions, which makes personnel and insurance projections a bit of a challenge particularly. He also mentioned that there are ARPA allocations to appropriate this year.

Mayor Feeney said the only other thing he wanted to report tonight was incredibly good news and is glad that City Engineer Dave Fishel is there, because he has been a great advocate and has worked really hard to secure every last dime for the City's upcoming Waste Water Treatment facility renovation/rebuild. He said he received incredibly good news last week that the City will receive, largely due to County Engineer Charlie Ortman, a \$5 million grant in State funding to go towards this project. He said he wanted to thank County Engineer Ortman and Dave Fishel for their hard work. He said that it is really a big deal when you consider that sewer and water are fee-based essential services making no profit and just providing services back to the community. He said every dollar that we bring in grants or other funding directly goes to reducing potential fee increases over time.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel stated that they had a budget review for three departments prior to the Council meeting and will have an additional budget review on Wednesday and then another on the following Monday. She said that she had received several questions on Item #3 and wanted to explain it a little further and give a little history on how this works. She said Dave Fishel was there also to go through some of the purchase orders and what he want to reallocate the money for. She said at the beginning of the year when they did the budget this money was appropriated. She said they could unappropriate the money to put it back in the fund and then reappropriate it again, which would take a lot of time. So in order to get this done a little sooner, this was the fastest way to do it. She said it is not an additional appropriation and it is not moving it to a different fund. She said it will still remain in the same fund; it will just be allocated to different projects. She said it is money that will be used for other resources.

Utilities Director, Dave Fishel, was present at the meeting and offered to answer any additional questions Council may have regarding the matter. He said they had a couple of line items where the budget was not entirely used and that he had communicated with Mayor Feeney and Auditor Spetnagel the desire to move funds in order to address other areas that are in need within their funds.

He asked if anyone had any questions; no one had unanswered questions at that time.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Law Director Villarreal stated that she did not have a report this evening.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kenneth Starr of 266½ E. Main Street in Jackson, Ohio. He stated that he had spoken to Council last month regarding the incident where a police officer wrecked his cruiser into parked cars while traveling at high speed. He mentioned that he thought no one was being held accountable and that he did not receive the appropriate response from with the Mayor or the Safety Service Director upon communicating his concerns. He said he feels it is really sad that no one cares that Arbogast wrecked his car and Sergeant Shanks intentionally hindered the investigation so that nothing would come of it. He felt he should have been reprimanded more severely in the internal investigation of the Chillicothe Police Department.

Carla McGarvey of 64 Logan Street in Chillicothe. She stated that she was there to request more signage in her part of town to alert semi trucks that they shouldn't be in that area. She referenced a wreck that had taken place in the past involving a semi truck and then one more recently that did not in her neighborhood. She also mentioned that there needs to be better lighting so that they can see the license plates to identify vehicles that are causing these accidents, as a truck had hit the electric pole about a year ago and the electric company has not fixed it yet.

Ed Kunzelman of Chillicothe. He stated he has a project with his partners on 14 & 16 E. 2nd Street which he sees as a terrific restaurant venue in the future. He said it has already been approved by the Design Review Board. However, he said he will need structural work permits and permissions for the storefront, because it comes onto City property. He brought in copies of the design and plans for Council to have a visual representation. He said he thinks it will have a positive impact in the downtown area.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold announced that the next Council meeting will be Monday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

There will be a budget review Wednesday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m. as well as one on Monday, November 15th at 6:00 p.m., and one of Wednesday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m.

President Arnold announced that there are new committee assignments since the last meeting for inclusion in the Journal of Council:

City Services: Request for legislation to accept and appropriate \$4,095.78 from Public Entity Services for repairs to a street construction vehicle.

Finance: Request for legislation to release \$14,137.67 security from fire damage to owner of 352 Zane Road upon meeting completed inspections.

Utilities: Request for legislation to move unused funds in Water and Sewer to enable the funds for more appropriated uses.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 74-21 appropriating \$7,500.00 for the Ross County Reentry Coalition and declaring an emergency was read for the third time by title only. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 74-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 75-21 appropriating \$4,886.00 for the purchase of replacement chairs for the Chillicothe Police Department and declaring an emergency was read for the third time by title only. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 75-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 76-21 authorizing the City Auditor to transfer funds from one department to another within the Water and Sewer fund for the remainder of the year 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Tatman 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. 76-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 77-21 accepting and appropriating insurance reimbursement funds in the amount of \$4,095.78 and declaring an emergency was read for the first 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. 77-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 78-21 accepting and appropriating a portion of the City’s ODNR Natureworks Grant in the amount of \$1,900.00 for appraisal costs relating to the acquisition of 89 Riverside Street 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 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. 78-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 79-21 appropriating \$14,137.67 in insurance funds received as security as the result of a structure fire at 352 Zane Road, Chillicothe, Ohio, 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. 79-21 adopted.

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 7:37 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council