

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
November 22, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Council met in regular session with seven of the nine members present: Phillips, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Fairrow, Corcoran and Proehl. Ms. Payne and Ms. Gillum were absent from the meeting. Also, in attendance were a couple of 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. Nickerson moved and Ms. Corcoran seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Mr. Phillips moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Ms. Payne and Ms. Gillum be excused from this Council meeting. 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 did not have any items on the agenda and that there were no new committee assignments to discuss at this time.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated on behalf of Ms. Payne that the Human Resources Committee did not have anything on the agenda; however, there was a committee meeting prior to the Council meeting to discuss assignment #21-104 regarding updating the rate of pay and other benefits of Classified, Non-Classified and Management level employees of Chillicothe. He said that another meeting will be held to try to finalize the language.

Development Committee:

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

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Finance / Technology Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #3, which is a first reading of a Resolution approving the updates to the City’s Financial Policies and Procedures to make the auditing process better and easier. He indicated that this item would go to all three reads.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have anything on the agenda and no new committee assignments at this time. She said that the prior week she had attended the Tree Commission, The Parks & Recreation Board, and the Ross-Chillicothe Convention & Visitors Bureau meetings as the City Council representative.

Due to technical difficulties the live streaming began at 7:15 p.m. on YouTube.

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 did not have any items on the agenda and nothing new to discuss as well.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated on Ms. Gillum's behalf that the Safety Service Committee had Item #2, which is a first reading of an Ordinance extending the Chillicothe Municipal Court Victim Witness Assistance Program, accepting grant monies received through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), increasing the City's matching funds commitment and declaring an emergency. She said at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that there was nothing new to report.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated he had limited comments on the night's agenda. He said he would like to thank Auditor Spetnagel for getting the financial policies and procedures in front of Council. He said it was a project that he wanted to tackle when he was Auditor more than six years ago. He said it is an excellent base for City operations.

Mayor Feeney said that earlier this year on November 11th they had a fantastic Veterans Day and wanted to thank everybody who was involved: Melody who is with us tonight, the people who were involved with the Purple Heart City dedication and the new monument at Veterans Park, all of the Veterans who were involved, Pickaway-Ross who really made the park look nice, and the Parks & Recreation department. He said it was in an incredible turnout and a beautiful day and one that he thinks was memorable for the whole city. He said local Veteran, Ben Daughters, gave a nice speech, and it was just a touching day. He said the events that led to that day were appropriate for the care and honor that is present for Chillicothe and the way we feel about our Veterans, particularly with the presence of the VA and the high number of Veterans that we have had.

Mayor Feeney said that this past Friday the Light the Park event has quickly become the City's signature event to welcome the Christmas season downtown. He said it was an incredible turnout and showing with the lights and the people coming out in the beautiful weather. He said thank you to everyone involved in raising the money and getting the people downtown, all the store owners, and everybody who has contributed to make downtown a success and something the whole community has become attached to, and he thinks is spreading beyond the city.

Mayor Feeney said for his final announcement he is excited to announce a project he has been working on for a while. He said on December 18th at the Shoemaker Center we will be welcoming the Columbus Symphony for a Holiday Pops Spectacular. He said the event will start at 4:00 p.m. with our Chillicothe High School Orchestra doing a pre-performance presentation and will then transition into the Symphony at 5:00 p.m. He said tickets will go on sale tomorrow. He said they have been very fortunate for the Chillicothe-Ross Foundation to come through to make this event possible in funding and organization with lots of help and lots of people pulling together. He said he wanted to thank the Symphony for wanting to do this outreach. He said it is really an exciting thing, kind of on the heels of last year's Night of Unity. He said they are really hopeful that this becomes an annual event, and all proceeds will go to support fine arts in the community. He said tickets are available on the Chillicothe-Ross Convention & Visitors Bureau website as well as a link is available on the City's website and Facebook page.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel stated that she had one item on the agenda, Item #3 regarding financial policies. She said that there was a committee meeting before the Council meeting to talk about those policies. She said the goal is to fill their book with policies and that they have the first five, which are the most important items at this time. One item is fixed assets and increasing the value from \$500 to \$5,000. Currently they are tagging everything that is \$100 and above, which results in tagging almost everything purchased at this point. Another important item is cash management and credit card policy. She said the City currently does not have any credit cards, but they are required by law to have a policy in place. She said that the City would like to eventually get possibly one credit card. She said other topics within the policies include public records and budget adjustment policies. She said she had passed out those policies for Council to take their time and review and

provide any questions they may have regarding them.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Law Director Villarreal stated that her office is extremely busy and that they have been bombarded with opinion requests. She said they are continuing with training and cross training of staff and that they have been working nonstop.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold stated that they seem to have a very busy schedule with different pieces of legislation that are coming up over the next month and to trying to wrap things up by the end of the year. He said the two regular meetings are scheduled for December 13th and December 27th, and he said that either the Mayor or three Council members can call a special meeting in addition to the regular meetings if needed. He said he thinks it would be prudent for Council to have a special meeting on December 20th. He asked if anyone would like to make a motion to call a special meeting on December 20th. He said prior to that meeting they would have to provide what the meeting is for, but he said they do have several pieces of legislation.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that there be a special meeting on December 20th at 7:00 p.m. All members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

President Arnold said that at the next meeting they will have more information on what the special meeting would be dealing with.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Melody Lapczynski of 355 Brennan Road in Chillicothe. She said she wanted to thank everyone for all the work they did for the Purple Heart ceremony and their attendance at it. She said it was a really lovely thing and how much she appreciated all of their support. She said Purple Heart City signs will be going up soon. She said she would also like to ask for a copy of the study done on the usage of the City buildings. She said she is asking because she has an idea for the building located beside the Veterans Memorial Park. She suggested that it would be an absolutely beautiful place to put a military museum. She said it seems like a very natural use for that building. She said she has not spoken with the Veterans Council about it yet, but that she has communicated with a couple of people at the Historical Society about the concept and possibly getting items on loan that they now have in storage.

Mayor Feeney said that he would be happy to communicate with her after the meeting about the building she is referring to.

President Arnold thanked Ms. Lapczynski for all of the work she put into the Purple Heart ceremony, and noted that she literally worked endlessly on it.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold announced that the next Council meeting will be Monday, December 13th 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 update the City’s Financial Policies and Procedures.

Human Resources: Request for legislation for discussion and possible legislation to adjust the rate of pay for elected officials.

Safety Service: Request for legislation to accept VOCA and SVAA grants and appropriate matching funds to participate in the programs.

Finance: Request for legislation to establish the City of Chillicothe Operation Budget for 2022.

Human Resources: Request for legislation to update the rate of pay and other benefits of Classified, Non-Classified and Management level employees of Chillicothe.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

An Ordinance accepting and appropriating a \$200.00 donation from Anytime Fitness to the Chillicothe Fire Department and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

Ord. No. 80-21 extending the Chillicothe Municipal Court Victim Witness Assistance Program, accepting grant monies received through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), increasing the City's matching funds commitment and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Corcoran seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 80-21 adopted.

A Resolution approving updates to the City's Financial Policies and Procedures was read for the first time by title only.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council