

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

President Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 22, 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 did not have any items on the agenda. He did state that last week on December 6th they held a second committee meeting on proposed assignment #21-085. He said they were able to finalize and get to a decision and some good discussion on how that language is going to look like. He added there is no rush on that, but that they will probably in the next month or so be presenting language for that ordinance to come to bear.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee has one item on the agenda, Item #4, which is the first reading of an Ordinance amending Sections 111.01, 111.10, 114.01, 116.01, 118.01, and 120.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, regarding pay provisions for Elected City Officials, and declaring an emergency. She said that this will go three reads and that there have been several committee meetings with discussions to come to the consensus of where they are with this, and it is written per these discussions. She said it will not be voted on this evening, and that declaring it an emergency only means that if Council does vote “yes” on this after three reads, it would go into effect right away.

Development Committee:

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

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Finance / Technology Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #2, which is a second reading of a Resolution approving the updates to the City’s Financial Policies and Procedures.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have anything on the agenda and nothing to report at this time.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee had Item #1, which is a second reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating a \$200.00 donation from Anytime Fitness to the Chillicothe Fire Department and declaring an emergency. She said at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule so that they can get those funds to the Fire Department.

President Arnold asked if Mr. Fairrow had anything he wished to report this evening. Mr. Fairrow stated that he had nothing to report.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee met earlier to discuss an item which is appropriating \$200,000 for use toward the purchasing of a trolley for the Transit Department. She said they had several questions about it with good discussion and feedback from Director Powell. She said the Transit Department over the past nine months has gone through this Innovation Track where one of the things they did was testing a trolley. She said this was received very well in the community with really good feedback. She added there was talk of potentially renting a trolley, but right now due to the availability of rentals and how much they cost it just made more sense to purchase it. She said that Transit has also worked hard at maximizing their State and Federal grant dollars this year and next, which has freed up a lot of their local dollars. She said they will have a lot more freedom as to how they can incorporate the trolley into the community. There are thoughts of using it for trips out to Bridge Street or specific seasonal uses, whether going up to Adena or out to Tecumseh. She said there is just a lot of potential, and with the City owning it, there is a lot more freedom with that.

Ms. Lewis said she would like to make a motion to waive the three-day receipt rule so that they can get it on the agenda tonight so that it can go through the three reads. Ms. Nickerson seconded the motion. All members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

President Arnold stated that they have waived the three-day receipt rule and that this legislation would become Item #6 on the agenda.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda and nothing new to discuss at this time.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Engineering Committee had two items on the agenda, Item #3, which is the first reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$19,500.00 for maintenance costs related to the traffic controller at the US 35 ramp at SR 159. He said that there was not emergency language in the original request but that they would discuss that in a second. Also, Item #5, which is the first reading of an Ordinance consenting to the proposal submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the resurfacing project at SR 772 within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe and declaring an emergency. He said that we have six highways going through Chillicothe and every time they resurface one of those (23, 159, 772, 104, 35 or 50) and it is through the City, then the City has to pay a percentage to get the project done. He said this legislation did get emergency language put into it. He asked the Mayor if we want to get these two items passed tonight, next week, or in two weeks.

Mayor Feeney replied that regarding Item #3, his understanding is that the language included in the ordinance states at any time authorized by law, because it is an appropriation the Auditor’s office would be able by law to make that payment despite no emergency language. He said emergency language is more relevant for changes to policies or codified ordinances or something like that. He said on Item #5 regarding 772, this is something that is scheduled a couple of years out. He said we certainly like to get things passed as quickly as we can with projects like this, but as far as this one is concerned, if ODOT does not receive it for 30 days or it didn’t go into legal effect for 30 days, there is no issue there. He said the one that has urgency is Item #3.

Mr. Tatman said that at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule on Item #3, and that he will let Item #5 go to the three reads. He said they are both necessary and important, and as long as they get passed in a matter of time.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated with regards to tonight’s agenda he would support the passage of Item #1 tonight and Item #3. He said Item #3 pertains to the area where sadly enough a few of years ago a fatality at the exit ramp of 35 eastbound around Christmas time had occurred. He said this signal change work that ODOT has been working on this year has to do largely with getting that signal timing and stop bar changes. He said the City is often responsible for portions of the maintenance

but not all. This is something necessary to complete some of this timing work and it is really important. He said it is the initial step of the big project for ODOT that will be in 2024/2025, and so he would really encourage the passage of Item #3 tonight. He said Item #4, sections 4 and 5 both need revisions at the next meeting reflecting that under state law elected officials' salary cannot change during a term. He said for clarity's sake, that the Law Director and Mayor could be addressed in a separate ordinance next year or leave in the 2024. He said there has been a lot of back and forth and thanked the Law Director's office for working on this legislation. Item #6 regarding the trolley, he said he thinks Council is aware of the good things Transit has done over the last year, but what has gone under the radar is the boost through various sources and leadership to the cash reserves in Transit. He said one of the only things he received negative feedback for the trolley is what could this money have been used for alternatively. He said in this situation we have a Transit tax and a government funded county and that we can't use this money for anything other than Transit. He said additionally the way this legislation has been put forward is that we have bifurcated the funds in Transit. He said we have lots of restrictions from ODOT on how we can use city-owned or ODOT partially-funded property. He said the goal here it to have a vehicle that can be a part of our regular route and be integrated into our system, but also could be used for one-off rentals and that sort of thing, making it a unique resource for the community. He said we have a Transit system that is very robust and on January 1st we are completely redesigning the routes and the way the system works, which means we will also have an on-demand portion. He said they believe that the use of a trolley could introduce people, who do not traditionally ride the Transit system, to do so, and this could be a gateway to the Transit system use to others in the community. He said that when you weigh the efforts to rent or lease one versus the purchase options, that the financially responsible thing to do is to purchase it out right.

Mayor Feeney said he had the pleasure of attending a function at the Ross County Health District tonight and Dr. David McKell is retiring after service 32 years. He had been appointed by four different Mayors including himself. He said with the proclamation that he gave today he named today "Dr. David McKell Day" in Chillicothe. He said thank you to Dr. McKell for all of his service. He said he is happy to announce, per Dr. McKell's recommendation, that he will be appointing Dr. Gabis to replace him in that seat, which will be a nice transition there.

Mayor Feeney said that this Saturday, the Columbus Symphony will be here in Chillicothe at the Shoemaker Center hosted by the City of Chillicothe and the Ross County Community Foundation. He said it starts at 4:00 p.m. with the Chillicothe High School Orchestra and followed by the Symphony at 5:00 p.m. He said he really appreciates all who have helped with that.

Mayor Feeney also said that this Friday the City will have the link to go live for applications to participate in the Steering Committee for the Master Plan. He said he will ask Council members to promote this Steering Committee. He said it will take a couple of weeks to go through applications and then kick off the Master Plan early next year. He said this is a pretty exciting time.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

Mayor Feeney stated on Auditor Spetnagel's behalf that next Monday night at 6:30 p.m. they will present before the first read at Council the final version of the 2022 budget. He said it will be a recap of the requests from the requests that Council has received. He said it will be before the Special meeting that evening.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Law Director Villarreal stated that her office did not have anything to report this evening.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold stated that he did not have anything to add this evening as well.

Mayor Feeney apologized for interrupting but wanted to add one more thing regarding the salary pay ordinance. He said he thinks in rereading it that it is possible that it has the current salaries that have been stricken and changed. He said they will get verification on that from Auditor Spetnagel, and it might not need to be updated.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dorothy Hopkins of 2097 Western Avenue. She said she is originally from Upstate New York in a small town something like Chillicothe. She said she is proposing adequate transportation like passenger railway or Greyhound buses. She said she has grandchildren she would like to visit in New York, but in order to do so she would have to drive her car eight hours. She asked Mayor Feeney if he agrees that it is time for that.

Mayor Feeney replied that he would love to have a passenger rail in Chillicothe.

Ms. Hopkins asked him if he likes to go on weekend excursions or going to see family and friends.

Mayor Feeney said if he were in control of Amtrak, Chillicothe would have had rail two years ago. He said he would love to talk to her about it more after the meeting.

She said she has not had an accident, but she said she doesn't like to drive the eight hours. She added that Amtrak goes through all of the towns in New York that are small as well. She said if Utica can do it, we should think about it.

Derek Myers of The Guardian. He said the Mayor brought up a good point a few moments ago. He said he almost had a heart attack earlier today when he saw the piece of legislation for the Item #4 on the agenda for pay raises. He said it was a 62% raise with the numbers that were in there, but as the Mayor had pointed out it looked like there may have been an error there so it would actually be a 28% pay raise for City Council. He said the emergency clause as Councilwoman Payne had mentioned is not necessarily waiving the three-reading rule, but in order for something to still be an emergency to go into effect immediately it has to be for public health, safety, or welfare of the community. He said he is just not sure how pay raises for elected officials are for the public health, safety, or welfare of anyone. He said a 28% pay raise is about \$350 per meeting, and that is a lot of money to sit at a Council meeting. He said he realizes that they are all in public service and that he appreciates them for being in public service. He said if anyone got in this job for money, they are doing it for the wrong reasons and should be in it for public service. He said that \$8,300 would be what the new pay would be. He said that is not a lot, but that it is certainly a lot when we look at minimum wage throughout our country and our state is not going up. \$400, according to a study out of the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, of unexpected expenses is a lot for the average American. He said we are looking at Council getting \$350 per meeting with the 28% pay raise, that is a substantial amount of money when in 99% of the counties in our country right now the average minimum wage worker cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment at market rate. He added that the City Auditor is wanting a \$26,000 pay raise. He said he gets it that she is going from part time to full time according to the language of the legislation, but he said that her workload is not going to change. He said this is not an attack on Kristal, he said it is an attack on the pay increase for the position. He said she has been City Auditor for a term or two, and whoever is in that position the workload is not going to change. He said just because it goes from part time to full time, more hours/less hours in the office, he is not sure what the difference is on that, but he does know that the workload doesn't change for the person that holds that office. He added that another thing is that he is not sure why we are waiting until December to talk about this, when we knew that this is something that the City wanted to do. He said it was mentioned that it had been discussed for weeks, but perhaps it should have been discussed before December and you wouldn't have to use emergency language. He said it has to go into effect by January, and he is not sure who says that it has to go into effect by January. He said the Mayor mentioned earlier in his comments that Council could table or perhaps do an amendment for some other salaries. He said he would recommend that Council do that here instead of having the 30 days to be waived. He said he thinks it is unconscionable when people are working two and three jobs to make rent right here in our own community that Council is wanting a pay raise.

President Arnold warned that Mr. Myers had one minute left.

Mr. Myers continued that there are a couple of other things. He said the Police Department issued two new policies, and one is to terminate pursuits. He said he read over the policy, and he thinks it is going to let more crime run rampant. He said he gets that there are security risk issues and safety issues, but perhaps somebody should revisit that policy. He said the policy is word for word from the State of California. He said we are not California, we are rural Ohio, so perhaps the policy should be modified to fit us and not the state of California. He also said car policies at the Police Department have been changed. Officers now have to turn off their vehicles if they are idling. He said he gets that there is a lot of wear and tear on the fleet right now, especially in the winter with the heat going. He said he talked with some of the officers, and they are concerned about computers

shutting down, not knowing how long they take to get back up. He said some of the computers are aged and take five minutes to turn back on. He said the officers relayed to him confidentially that hopefully somebody can review those two new policies and revisit the language in them, because they are not in line with what the officers feel is the best.

President Arnold told Mr. Myers his time was up.

Mr. Myers argued that people go for 15 minutes all the time and pointed out a specific occasion.

President Arnold stated he was going with the rules.

Mr. Myers said he didn't always go with the rules and asked if they only apply to certain people.

President Arnold clarified that the occasion Mr. Myers referred to, was a discussion that evening and wasn't just a presentation.

Mr. Myers said perhaps he wanted a discussion and said he didn't even get to finish.

President Arnold restated that five minutes is the rule.

Mr. Myers said you didn't get elected so they must not like you.

President Arnold said he would clarify that he put the assignment out November 11th and they have had two meetings that were public meetings about it, so no it is not something that just came upon them. He further told Mr. Myers that he didn't like his comment.

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the receipt of two notices from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the issuance of a permit for the change of LLC membership interests for two locations of Speedway LLC. DBA: Speedway 1206, located at 10 N. Bridge Street and DBA: Speedway 5224, located at 1136 E. Main Street.

There were no objections by Council to this permit application.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Proehl said he would address a few things on the pay raises. He said to address the Auditor getting a pay raise and going to full time, this is a position that has lost staff over the years and that particular position has absorbed more responsibility within the office. He said when the City upgraded the technology, not only is there training involved with that but also there is an expectation that the Auditor is also now our first person for tech support and to make calls for when the systems are down. He said there are a lot of things added to that position that Council was trying to correct by paying them appropriately. He said as for Council, one thing that is being left out of this is they are dropping the family insurance, which is a savings requiring the Council members to take a single coverage insurance. He said yes there is an increase in salary but not in the overall compensation really, because they will be cutting back all Council members and that will produce a savings for the City. He said it is just reallocating some of the funds that we currently use rather than just throwing money towards Council. He said the other problem was Council had denied itself raises for many years because of concerns for the economy locally, and as a result it did have a negative impact on the retirement funds from which Council members could draw. He said they are trying to right the path they were on to bring it more up to date. He said he knows it looks like a large pay raise but said to keep in mind that they are shifting monies that were going towards insurance funds into the salary and then dropping the family coverage. He said by doing that we save the City money and also remove people from the pool, and that saves the City in the long run as well.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold announced that there will be a Special Council meeting next Monday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Prior to that there will be a budget meeting to present the 2022 new budget 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:

Transit: Request for legislation to appropriate funds to purchase a trolley for the Transit Department.

Engineering: Request for legislation to appropriate \$19,500 for maintenance on traffic controller at US 35 and SR 159.

Safety Service: Request for legislation to support the City to participate in Ohio Opioid settlements and authorize the Mayor to apply for such settlements.

Engineering: Request for legislation to approve participation for the ODOT resurfacing project proposal for a portion of SR 772 within corporation limits.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 81-21 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 second 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. 81-21 adopted.

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

Ord. No. 82-21 appropriating \$19,500.00 for maintenance costs related to the traffic controller at the US 35 ramp at SR 159 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 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. 82-21 adopted.

An Ordinance amending Sections 111.01, 111.10, 114.01, 116.01, 118.01, and 120.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, regarding pay provisions for Elected City Officials, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

An Ordinance consenting to the proposal submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the resurfacing project at SR 772 within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

An Ordinance appropriating \$200,000.00 for use toward the purchase of a trolley for the Transit Department was read for the first time by title only.

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 7:47 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Council Chambers
Special Meeting
December 20, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated on behalf of Ms. Payne that the Human Resources Committee had Item #2, which is the second reading of an Ordinance that deals with pay raises and provisions for elected officials and declaring an emergency. He said this piece of legislation will limit Council members to receiving single coverage insurance rather than family. It will increase Council's pay just enough so they can now receive retirement once again and, it is going to go all three reads.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Finance / Technology Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #3, which is a third reading of a Resolution approving the updates to the City's Financial Policies and Procedures.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee had Item #5, which is the first reading of a Resolution that is basically an extension of the Ohio Opioid Settlement Agreement that Law Director Villarreal laid out for Council. She said it is going to go to a second read.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #4, which is the second reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$200,000.00 for use toward the purchase of a trolley for the Transit Department. She said that this will go on to a third reading.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Tatman stated that the Engineering Committee had Item #3, which is the second reading of the ODOT resurfacing project on SR 772 and the funds that the City will have to contribute. He said that this could go to a third reading without issue

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that he had two quick things to mention. He said he wanted to thank everybody that helped pull off the Columbus Symphony's visit to Chillicothe on Saturday. He said he doesn't think that he will ever forget that night and that it was a very neat experience. Also, he said he would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel stated she had one item on the agenda which is the Resolution approving the City's Financial Policies and Procedures. She said she presented those several weeks ago. She said that they wanted those to be approved before the end of the year so that they could start fresh in the new year with the policies. She said they presented the budget in a committee meeting prior to this Council meeting and that she will be sending out details that will tie to those numbers that were handed out tonight.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold stated that this is Christmas time and everything is getting hectic and people are as busy as can be. He said the lights in the park look great and also the lights that are lined up on Water Street have really added to the festivities of the downtown. He said as having a business in the downtown area himself he has seen a remarkable turnaround in the bustle and everything that is going on in the downtown is booming and is wonderful. He said he knows that it is an effort that has been done by a lot of people, and he would like to just say kudos to everybody that's put forth the effort to get the downtown to where it is at. He said it is really doing great. He also wished a Merry Christmas to everyone.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jeff Lehner of 5th Street and the 5th Ward. He said that he wanted to comment on the item on the agenda dealing with pay provisions for elected officials. He said that he does not feel that it is appropriate to raise the pay of Council members on an emergency basis. He said he has been told that part of the thinking behind it is so that insurance changes can be made before the end of the year. He said he understands that and likes the idea of limiting insurance options for Council members, because he doesn't even know that insurance should be a part of the deal. He said Council is part-time position and none of them do this as a career. He said he was asked to run for City Council a few years ago, and he made a joke and said if he ever did that it would be to get rid of health insurance for Council members. He said he thinks it is a good idea to do that, but he does not think it is a good idea to do it on an emergency basis in a lame duck session. He said he would ask that Council stop calling it an emergency, because it is not one. He also had a question about Item #4 regarding the trolley. He asked if it was a declared emergency or not. He said he was told it was, but it wasn't on last week's agenda. He said it is on this week's agenda, but he does not see emergency here, which he said is a good thing if that is the case and asked for the status of that.

Ms. Lewis said she would give an update on the trolley. She said there is no emergency on it, so that basically just means that if it is passed there will be a 30-day time frame before any money can be spent. She said that is basically all that emergency verbiage means; if it says emergency then the money can be appropriated the next day, if not there is a 30-day time frame that the public could appeal it. She said this is obviously something that doesn't need to be an emergency so there is not. She said things that need emergency are things like bills, grants, things that have deadlines, etc.. She said when you see "declaring an emergency" that is simply all it means. She said that she thinks that word gets confusing. She said in regards to it not being on last week's agenda initially it was her fault. She said she was in quarantine and just didn't get it turned in in time to Teresa in the Law Director's office. She said she wanted to make sure she got it in as soon as possible, because she knew there was going to be a special meeting coming up. She said Teresa was gone the day she brought it into her; so consequently, she simply brought it into last week's meeting and asked to get it added to the agenda with the intention of waiving the three-day receipt rule for legislation. She said it will be going through the three reads and potentially voted on by the end of the year by Council. She said Council is trying to wrap up as much stuff as they can for the new Council to have a clean slate. She said a lot of people have worked on a lot of the things that are going to be ending, so it is just to kind of give them a clean slate of what they will work on next year.

Mr. Lehner asked if Council passes it and it does not include an emergency, what does it mean going into the next year?

Ms. Lewis said it just simply means there are 30 days until potentially purchasing it, and she said she guesses if the public would want to appeal it. She said she is not sure how that may work specifically, but that may be a Law Director question as well.

Mr. Lehner said going back to the pay issue then and asked what are the thoughts on calling that one an emergency, and wanted to know if it has to do with insurance and first of the year stuff. He said if so, what makes that an emergency and why wasn't it picked up prior to last week. He said if we knew we had a year-end deadline why did we wait until December, a month after the elections, to say we need to raise pay and change the insurance rules for Council.

Mr. Proehl said he could speak to some of that and said the way that Council compensation works is that no Council member can give themselves a pay raise or an increase in compensation. He said that is one of the reasons why he thinks the rush is to get it done before the end of the year would be the incoming Council, which many of these folks will not be a part of, will be the ones that will actually receive the raise or change of benefits. He said normally the use of emergency language when it comes to finances is so that once a financial decision has taken place, if there are bills or some type of payment involved, that language is used. He said Mr. Lehner is correct, and had this been brought to Council sooner they could have foregone the emergency language, because they could have had time to allow the 30 days to pass before the end of the year. He said he can't speak as to why it appeared when it did because he is not the committee chair, and he indicated that Kathy Payne might be able to answer that question. He said he hopes that kind of helps on the why it is written as it is now. He said he will say that he does agree with Mr. Lehner on Council insurance. He said that one of the plans they kicked around before they decided on this particular avenue was to do away with insurance for Council all together.

Mr. Lehner said he thinks they would have a lot of support for that. He said that's not to say anything about the job Council does. He said you run, you get elected, and you should be compensated for that, but it is not a full-time job, and it is something he has always wondered about. He said it is not on the merit of the idea; it is on the process of calling it an emergency to affect this change in a fast and hurry up kind of manner.

Ms. Corcoran stated that once again it is not an emergency, and so when you keep saying that word it is not an emergency.

Mr. Lehner said that is his point.

Ms. Corcoran replied but that is the language you have to use, that's the legal jargon. She said it not something that they came up with.

Mr. Lehner asked what's the legal standard for declaring an emergency.

Ms. Corcoran said she thinks they have all said that several times. She said what she would like to explain about their process is that he asked why did this just come up last week. She said it did not just come up last week. She said for every piece of legislation, the average piece of legislation takes a minimum of 12 weeks; some take six months, and some take a year. She said the average piece of legislation takes 12 weeks to pass. She added that Council has committee meetings prior to these Council meetings. She said she always thinks of the meetings as the official meeting where they put their stamp on it. She said their work is done in their committee meetings. She said they can have several committee meetings, which are reported at every Monday night Council meetings. She said Bruce sends out announcements to the media and anyone who would like to receive them. She said he could probably ask the next Council President to put him on notice so that he can know when all of these committee meetings are. She said they do announce them publicly and they are open to the public.

Mr. Lehner said that to her point that on January 1, 2021, that they knew there was going to be a December 31, 2021, and there is no reason to do this on an emergency basis.

Ms. Corcoran said that is not correct.

Mr. Lehner said Council knew at the beginning of the year there would be an end of the year.

Ms. Corcoran replied that they didn't know at the beginning of the year that they were going to have a meeting, and in one of their meetings one of the topics came up about compensation, because they were doing other things. She said the last thing they are thinking about is their compensation. She said in one of their meetings, which everyone that is in this room that was at this meeting can attest, this was brought up. She said they said maybe this is something we need to look at; we have all had feelings about it. She said she is leaving Council and this does nothing for her. She said we have had people who have served on Council for 30 years, and when they retired they got "zippo". She said she never calls this job part time. She said she has five regular meetings other than every committee meeting and these Council meetings she has to attend to be on Council and several other things. She said a lot of people in here will tell you it is not part time. She said it can be what you make it and what you don't make it. She said she really doesn't have a problem with insurance at all. She said she thinks people need it. She said we have part time employees in the City that get insurance. She said she thinks that taking it down to single coverage is fair especially since they are increasing the rate of pay. She said the reason they are increasing the rate of pay that amount is #1: that is the amount to get them into Public Employees Retirement, and #2: they did surveys, which all of this has been explained in their other meetings, where they surveyed what Council makes compared to other cities our size and with budgets our size. She said we are very low, and she said she does not even remember if maybe they have had one raise since she has been there, not sure, but it was not significant. She said the same thing goes for the Mayor's position; they compared what other Mayors are making compared to our Mayor. She said Luke is the least part time Mayor we have had in years, and it shows in our City and it shows in our progress. She said this is not to disagree, but this is just to tell you how they got to where they are now. She said it is maybe a little poor planning, but they were dealing with a pandemic and all other kinds of issues that put this City on hold. She said they didn't know where they were going to be financially. She said Council can't vote on this next year. She said as a Council person that has served in this position she thinks it is respectful, and she thinks it is the right thing to do going forward for the other Council people.

Mr. Lehner said he does not think that a lot of people agree with that and that he has talked with a lot of people in this town about this. He said he doesn't think that people in this town agree that Council compensation is an emergency.

Ms. Corcoran once again said it is not an emergency, it is a jargon; it is a word. She said they have had several meetings and she asked how many phone calls they have had to the City or to Council about it. She said she has had no phone calls in regards to any of these items. She said they have their names on the website, their phone numbers on the website, and they all have emails. She said she does not know of anybody who has called the Mayor that doesn't get an answer, and the City's department heads are always accessible.

Mr. Lehner said he is there to raise the issue of this is not an emergency and that Ms. Corcoran has said it three times now.

President Arnold warned thar Mr. Lehner had one minute remaining.

Mr. Lehner continued that Council is calling it one to affect the swift passage, but that is not the kind of thing that builds confidence in people’s perceptions of government and people’s perceptions of politicians. He said he thinks it is bad form and he thinks a lot of people feel that way about it and he thinks it is something for Council to consider. He said they are going to do what they are going to do well within their rights to do it, because they are the ones that got elected to Council. He said but there is a new one coming in and there are reasons a new one is coming in, and he said he thinks that is worth bringing up. He said he had a last point, and he would make it really quick related to Item #5. He said he saw the other day that Fentanyl overdoses are now the #1 cause of death for Americans between the age of 18 and 45 and that is a true emergency. He said that is one that hits pretty close to home in Chillicothe, Ohio, because we’ve got an obvious drug problem here. He said you guys are talking about budgets. He said he was told that at one time the City had a five-man unit dedicated specifically to fighting drugs in Chillicothe on the Police force. He said since about January of 2020 as he understands it, that unit has been operating as a one-man unit, and the guy that does it splits time between the City of Chillicothe and the US Marshall Service. He said that is totally inadequate and that’s a true emergency. He said that is a really long time for that to be the case. He said we are going on two years of not having a narcotics specific unit policing Chillicothe, Ohio, and that’s a major problem. He said he thinks we can all agree that is a real emergency.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Res. No. 20-21 approving updates to the City’s Financial Policies and Procedures was read for the third time by title only. All eight members present then voted “yea” on the item, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 20-21 adopted.

An Ordinance amending Sections 111.01, 111.10, 114.01, 116.01, 118.01, and 120.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, regarding pay provisions for Elected City Officials, and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only.

An Ordinance consenting to the proposal submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the resurfacing project at SR 772 within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only.

An Ordinance appropriating \$200,000.00 for use toward the purchase of a trolley for the Transit Department was read for the second time by title only.

A Resolution approving the City’s participation in Ohio Opioid Settlement Agreements including the Janssen Opioid Settlement with opioid distributor Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (collectively “Janssen”) and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

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 7:28 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council