

Video Conference
Regular Meeting
December 28, 2020
7:00 p.m.

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. Nickerson moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2020, as well as the minutes of the Special Council meeting of December 21, 2020 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee had Item #1 on the agenda which is the third reading of the Downtown Redevelopment Districts legislation. She stated that they had changed the language a little bit including emergency language so that they could have this up and running for 2021. She also stated that she is super excited for this particular legislation and asked for Council's support. She said she thinks it is very important for where we are right now. It is a financial resource for people who want to invest in our City because these old buildings can be quite an undertaking; and it definitely does promote economic development once that momentum gets going. She said it is a 30-year program, and she hopes that she is still around in 30 to see the fruition.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee had a number of items on tonight's agenda. Item #3, which is a second reading of a resolution strongly opposing Senate Bill 352 and House Bill 754, legislation proposing the repeal of Section 29 of House Bill 197, which will result in a myriad of unintended consequences throughout Ohio's entire Municipal Income Tax System, cause a substantial loss of revenue that will impede the ability of municipalities to provide for the health, safety and welfare of municipal residents and businesses and thereby jeopardize the future economic growth of the State of Ohio. He stated that since this is the last meeting of the year, at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule so that it can be passed on this last meeting. Item #4, which is a second reading of an Ordinance to make First Quarter appropriation for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Chillicothe, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2021. Mr. Proehl stated that at the appropriate time he will request to waive the three-read rule so that this can be passed at this last meeting as well. Item #5, which is an amendment to Ordinance #103-20, adding the language "as needed" to an Ordinance transferring funds in the amount of \$28,348.00 from Information Technology salary expense lines to Outside Contracts. He said that in order to fix this legislation he will ask at the appropriate time that Council waive the three-read rule. Item #6, which is removing unnecessary appropriations from the books of the City of Chillicothe for various funds. He stated that he believes that the Auditor will want Council to waive the three-read rule on this item as well. Item #9, which is an Ordinance appropriating funds for the purpose of making postage, payroll, fringe and pensions for the remainder of 2020. Mr. Proehl also stated that he would ask to waive the three-read rule for this item at the appropriate time as well.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee had Item #7, which is appropriating \$8,000.00 for use towards decorative sleeves and other necessary items for updating parking meters. He stated that at the appropriate time he will ask to waive the three-read rule, because the meter poles are already in and he thinks the staff would like to get these things knocked out.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda; however, he said they will be working on the upgrade of the sewer system, as well as the Utilities Department rules and regulations in the coming year.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had Item #8 on the agenda which is a first reading of a Resolution approving the establishment of a new Transit Department fund, basically transferring funds from one fund to another. She said that this is something that needs to be done by the end of the year as well, and at the appropriate time she will be asking to waive the three-read rule.

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee had Item #2, which is the second reading of an Ordinance supporting the Adena Regional Medical Center's HRSA Grant Project and allocating \$10,000.00 for use toward a Fair Housing Assessment, and he indicated that this will go on to the third reading.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne reported that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but that she wanted to wish everyone Happy New Year.

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 reviewing tonight's items on the agenda, Item #1 is an Ordinance coming to Council as it has been amended from its previous version. He said this required School Board approval, which after some conversations with the Chillicothe School District they have agreed to terms that are now before Council for passage tonight. He stated that he just wanted to extend his thanks to Chillicothe School Board for working with the City. Also, as it turns out a congratulations to School Board President, Steve Mullins, who has announced his retirement at this end of this year. Mayor Feeney said he has been good to work with the City and that includes this project. He said that a couple of the changes, one of which was suggested by the School Board, was the addition of the language in Section 10 that includes specifics on how the board that oversees the DRD is actually constructed. He said that matches what Council talked about the other day in terms of appointees from City Council, appointees from the Mayor's and the Auditor's offices, Economic Development, property owners, and the City School District. He said that it does include emergency language, because we want this to go into effect in the year 2020. Mayor Feeney said that he would also like to thank Ross County Commissioner Steve Neal. He said that he and Commissioner Neal, and a few others, were on a subcommittee that was formed several years ago by the Downtown Development Commission. He said they were tasked with trying to figure out what would be the best economic development tool for downtown, and Commissioner Neal was instrumental in putting this proposal together and analyzing the different implications of this versus an abatement or in conjunction with abatements. He said Steve Neal was especially helpful with his time as Auditor and as Commissioner. Mayor Feeney said he wanted to thank him for his years of service and for his help particularly on this project. He said he would ask for Council's favorable vote on this tonight. He said he has received lots of good questions about this topic but no opposition. He stated that he thinks one of the reasons that it has received a lot of support is that this is and can be a first step towards more districts in the downtown area; these are just the first four DRDs that are being set up, and of course more can follow in the future.

Mayor Feeney stated that the Auditor has several year-end housekeeping items, and he would support her request and the Councilperson's request for waiver of the three-read rule for those. He said that Councilman Shoemaker mentioned the waiver of the three-read rule for the \$8,000.00 appropriation for the sleeves for the meters. He said that he received a good email from somebody in the public who was asking about the different implications around painting the meters; buying a paint machine and having a person do that. He said even weighing those topics, that he thinks that

for the matter at hand these sleeves are the best option for the City right now. He said he would agree with that person in the public who mentioned that the light poles don't match and there is more that we could do to improve the aesthetics of the community, and he is all for that. He said he values and thanks the input on Item #7 and would also support its passage tonight.

Mayor Feeney said he would conclude with a few short remarks, because he feels like this year has been long enough to be several lifetimes. He said he will not miss 2020 and that he looks forward to 2021. He said we didn't stop business here in Chillicothe and that he thinks that reflects well on this Council but particularly on our community. He said he looks forward to 2021 being a great year.

Report of Auditor Spetnagel:

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she had several items on the agenda tonight, and she is going to request that Council waive the three-read rule on all of them so they can all be passed for the year, as most of them are housekeeping things. She said the first one is Item #3 that is a Resolution opposing Senate Bill 352 and House Bill 754. She said that is just to keep our Municipal Income Tax System the way it is rather than having income either taxed or not taxed depending on where people are working currently because of COVID. Item #4 is a second reading for the First Quarter appropriation of expenses. She said that is the City's temporary budget for 2021 and that she is going to ask that Council go ahead and pass that tonight. She said that they were going to have it on for three reads, but she has not had any questions; rather than calling a special meeting if everyone is good, we can go ahead and pass that tonight. Item #5 is just an amendment to Ordinance #103-20 to include "as needed" because we are not going to spend any of that money. They were going to move it to Outside Contracts, but they are not going to be spending any of that money so they really do not need to make that move. She said that all of that money is just going to roll back into the General Fund regardless of whether they moved it or not, and that just saves her office an extra step in accounting to do at year end, and they are already extremely busy. Item #6 is an Ordinance removing unnecessary appropriations. She said that these are expenses that are not going to be spent and that the Auditor of State recommends and requires that the City unappropriate funds that weren't going to be spent. She said there were a lot of funds in various departments and capital items that we did not go forward with this year that they will be unappropriating, which means it will just go back into the same unappropriated fund. Item #8 is a Resolution for the establishment of a new Transit Department fund titled "Reserve Fund". This is required by ODOT and it is to set up a fund that will be a sub-fund of the Transit fund moving required funds to there that can only be spent on capital purchases. Item #9 is appropriating funds to make year-end payroll and fringes. She said that most of the payroll did not require additional appropriations because of participating in the SharedWork Program. The only department that did not participate in the program had to appropriate a little bit of funds due to some retirements, but other than that last ordinance is just to make year-end expenses.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

City Law Director Villarreal stated that her office has been really busy with the end-of-year items and lots of paperwork that they are dealing with right now, but that there was really nothing to report at this time. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold said that he just wanted to congratulate all of the Council members for having a great year. He said they have tackled all of the assignments, and there are all but a few of them that have been completed. He said that he thinks that they have really stepped up and have done a great job, and that he really appreciates all of the work they have done. He said he will be giving them the statistics regarding the assignments for the year, as far as what they have processed, at the first meeting next year. He said there are a few assignments that are going to be carried over that he will reassign after the first of the year and hopes that they can be tackled right away to get them taken care of. He said he had a calendar that he will be emailing to everyone that shows all of the City meetings and events. He thanked them again for doing such a great job and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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

The next Council meeting will be Monday, January 11th 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:

Finance: Request for legislation removing unnecessary appropriations from the books of the City of Chillicothe for various funds.

Development: Request for legislation accepting and appropriating \$5,217.75 received as payoff of a CHIP mortgage.

Finance: Request for legislation appropriating funds for the purpose of making postage, payroll, fringe and pensions for the remainder of 2020

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 107-20 creating the Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 1, Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 2, Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 3, and Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 4, declaring the improvement to certain parcels of real property to be a public purpose; exempting seventy percent (70%) of the value of such improvements from real property taxation ~~for a period of thirty years for years 1-10, fifty percent (50%) for years 11-20, and thirty percent (30%) for years 21-30;~~ requiring the owner of the parcels to make service payments in lieu of taxes; specifying the plan for using service payments to promote economic development and job creation; authorizing the execution of an Economic Development Plan; establishing the Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 1 Fund, Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 2 Fund, Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 3 Fund, and Chillicothe Downtown Redevelopment District 4 Fund for the deposit of such service payments; and approving related matters, 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. 107-20 adopted.

An Ordinance supporting Adena Regional Medical Center's HRSA Grant Project and allocating \$10,000.00 for use toward a Fair Housing Assessment was read for the second time by title only.

Res. No. 20-20 strongly opposing Senate Bill 352 and House Bill 754, legislation proposing the repeal of Section 29 of House Bill 197, which will result in a myriad of unintended consequences throughout Ohio's entire Municipal Income Tax System, cause a substantial loss of revenue that will impede the ability of municipalities to provide for the health, safety and welfare of municipal residents and businesses and thereby jeopardize the future economic growth of the State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency was read for the second 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 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. 20-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 108-20 to make First Quarter appropriation for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Chillicothe, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only. Mr. Proehl 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. 108-20 adopted.

Amendment to Ord. No. 103-20 transferring funds as needed in the amount of \$28,348.00 from Information Technology salary expense lines to Outside Contracts and declaring an emergency was read with amendments 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" on the item, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 103-20 adopted as amended.

Ord. No. 109-20 removing unnecessary appropriations from the books of the City of Chillicothe for various funds 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 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. 109-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 110-20 appropriating \$8,000.00 for use toward the purchase of decorative sleeves and other necessary items for updating parking meters and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Shoemaker 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. 110-20 adopted.

Res. No. 21-20 approving the establishment of a new Transit Department fund titled “Reserve Fund”, transferring funds from Transit Fund 243 to the new Reserve Fund 247 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 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. 21-20 adopted.

Ord. No. 111-20 appropriating funds for the purpose of making postage, payroll, fringe and pensions for the remainder of 2020 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl 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 Ordinance No. 111-20 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Tatman moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council