

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
January 24, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Council met in regular session with eight of the nine members present: G. Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Henderson, Gillum, Preston, A. Phillips, and Proehl. Mr. Fairrow was absent from this meeting. Also, in attendance were a few visitors in the audience including media representation, in addition to Mayor Feeney and City Auditor Spetnagel. Law Director Villarreal was absent.

Mr. Proehl moved and Mr. Greg Phillips seconded that Mr. Fairrow be excused from this Council meeting. All members present voted "yea", and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted.

President Gieringer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Gieringer asked if anyone would like to make any additions or corrections to the January 10th meeting minutes.

Mr. Phillips stated that on the listing of the members of the Community Affairs Committee that it listed himself as the Chairperson, Councilwoman Preston, and Councilman Anthony Phillips. He said that it needed to be changed by replacing Anthony Phillips with Councilwoman Nickerson appropriately. He said what he thinks happened was that Mr. Anthony Phillips was on four committees, as opposed to the standard three committees.

President Gieringer thanked Mr. Greg Phillips for finding the error and asked if there was motion to accept the minutes as amended.

Ms. Henderson moved and Ms. Payne seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2022, be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted.

President Gieringer stated he had appointments that have been recommended by Mayor Feeney for various appointments throughout the City for respective Boards and Commissions and their term. He said he would read off two sections of these appointment recommendations.

Design Review Board:

New Appointment – Jade Berry: 2-Year Term 01-01-22 – 12-31-23

New Appointment – Josh Detillion: 2-Year Term 01-01-22 – 12-31-23

Re-Appointment – Seth Brown: 2-Year Term 01-01-22 – 12-31-23

Confirmation of Council Representative Appointment – Tara Gillum: 01-01-22 – 12-31-23

President Gieringer asked if there was a motion to accept the appointments to the Design Review Board. Ms. Payne moved and Mr. Greg Phillips seconded the motion. All members present voted "yea", and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted.

Ross County Health District Board:

Ceil Corcoran: Filling an unexpired term ending 12/31/23

John Gabis: 5-Year Term 01-01-22 – 12-31-26

President Gieringer asked if there was a motion to accept the appointments to the Ross County Health District Board. Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Proehl seconded the motion. Three of the members present voted "yea", while five of the members voted "nay", and President Gieringer declared the motion did not pass.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Affairs Committee:

Mr. Greg Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He said they did meet earlier for a committee meeting on assignment #22-006, which is giving street closure for the Buck Fifty in April to hold the race downtown, similar to last year but with some extended street closures. He said they met and approved that, and it should be moved to the Council agenda on Valentine's Day, February 14th.

City Services / Transit Committee:

Ms. Gilliam stated that the City Services Committee did not have anything to report at this time.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Proehl stated that the Utilities Committee did not have anything to report at this time as well.

Safety Service Committee:

Ms. Preston stated that the Safety Service Committee had a committee meeting this evening in regards to livestock within the City limits, #19-093, and she said she would like to send that back to the President.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Henderson stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have anything on the agenda but that she had some good updates. As far as tourism in Chillicothe goes for the World Heritage designation, the application has been officially submitted to the State level, which will then move to Federal and then up to UNESCO for final review and will hopefully wrap up April 2023. She said another really cool thing that is getting ready to happen is there is an app that will be used for wayfinding around Chillicothe and surrounding areas. They are hoping that this app will launch around March and will be very useful for visitors. She also stated that Diamond 1 renovations will hopefully begin around June 1st, and that they are looking into some different options to help with some of the graffiti around town. She said a few dates that are coming up are: Saturday, March 12th – Lepechbaum Chase 5K and Saturday May 7th – Fight Like a Kid 5K (Proceeds will go to St. Jude's). She said the Parks & Recreation Board voted and passed on the Feast of the Flowering Moon and the Halloween Parade for this year.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda; however, at the appropriate time she would like to make a motion to go into executive session to discuss union contracts and negotiations. She said she has three outstanding assignments that she would like to mention individually: Assignment #22-0002 regarding the AFSCME Contract. She said this assignment wasn't received in time to get on the Council agenda for tonight. She said what that actually means for those who are listening, they did not have enough time to have a committee meeting and then send it onto the Law Director's office and have it put on the agenda for this evening. She said it is their understanding that this contract will automatically go into effect on January 27th without a vote this evening. Assignment #21-110, a special committee was formed at the end of the year to review Council members' term length, along with the President of Council, possibly changing from two years to four years on a stagger. She said they did have a committee meeting this past Monday evening on this and had several other questions and things they are looking into. She said she would ask that they have a second committee meeting February 7th at 6:30 p.m. Assignment #21-104 which is to update the rate of pay of and other benefits for classified, non-classified and management level employees of the City of Chillicothe. She said they did work on this a little before the end of the year; however, they needed to work on the second half of this and they did not have time. She said she would like to discuss this assignment as well at the committee meeting on Monday, February 7th. Ms. Payne said the last thing she would like to say is she would like to let Bruce Arnold's family know that her thoughts and prayers are with them during this time.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Anthony Phillips stated that the Finance / Technology Committee had one group of purchase orders that need to be wrapped up so that they can wrap up the budget. Committee Assignment #22-003. He said he would request that they put that on the schedule for Monday, February 7th. He said that is the legislation that is on the agenda tonight.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Fairrow was absent and no other Council member had a report on his behalf for the Engineering Committee.

Development Committee:

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

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that he would like to thank Council for their support of the appointments to the Design Review Board. He said they had a nice mix of people with experience and people who represent businesses or residents downtown, and he feels they will be an asset to the community. He said with regard to the second vote, which was presented as a slate. He said that leaves him in a position he is not clear if both were intended to be rejected or if one was and one was not. He said he would respectfully ask that they be presented individually so he can know how to present them at the next meeting, if he needs two new names or one, if that would be appropriate. Mayor Feeney said he would ask for Council's favorable vote on Item #1 on the agenda.

Mayor Feeney said he would like to take a moment to talk about the passing of former Council President, Bruce Arnold. He said the news is still pretty fresh, but that he had the chance to work in Council Chambers with Bruce for six years and he said he thinks "work" is the right word. He said he thinks that Bruce had a certain energy and commitment and passion for his job that was impressive. He said it was impressive because by and large Council President is a thankless job; Council President doesn't have a vote, and Council President's work is often behind the scenes and tedious. He said on a night like tonight Bruce would have been in about two or three hours ago and would have turned the heat on for everyone and gone back to work, and then come back for the meeting. He would have made copies and got assignments out and that sort of thing. He said but mostly Bruce had a lot of pride for this community; he cared deeply about this community, and it showed in his work. He said that on Friday he got a note in the mail from Bruce, and it said something on the front along the lines of "thank you so very much". It was a note thanking him related to the last election, thanking supporters for their support and inside it said reach out to me if you ever need anything; if you have any questions, how can I help, I still plan to serve you. Mayor Feeney said he thinks for him that is how he will remember Bruce. He was so eager and passionate to see this community succeed, and he took real pride in the job that he did. He said he was a good friend and excellent Council President, and he will be missed.

Report of Auditor Spengel:

Auditor Spengel stated that she had one item on the agenda, which is an Ordinance appropriating the carry forwards from the previous year. She said what this is, is an Ordinance for items that were included in last year's budget that were not paid by the end of the year that will still need to be paid this year. She said she would ask for Council's vote today so that they can get vendors paid that are due money for services that have already been provided.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Mayor Feeney stated on Law Director Villarreal's behalf that her office did not have anything to report.

Report of President Gieringer:

President Gieringer stated that he had nothing to report.

President Gieringer stated that based on the Mayor's request to have the Ross County Health District appointments voted on individually he would like to present those now.

Ross County Health District Board:

Cell Corcoran: Filling an unexpired term ending 12/31/23

President Gieringer asked if there was a motion to accept the appointments to the Ross County Health District Board. Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr. Proehl seconded the motion. Three of the members present voted "yea", while five of the members voted "nay", and President Gieringer declared the motion did not pass.

Ross County Health District Board:
John Gabis: 5-Y ear Term 01-01-22 – 12-31-26

President Gieringer asked if there was a motion to accept the appointments to the Ross County Health District Board. Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded the motion. Three of the members present voted "yea", while five of the members voted "nay", and President Gieringer declared the motion did not pass.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Thacker of the Fourth Ward residing at 990 Columbus Street, Apt. #307. He said he just wanted to say thank you to the City of Chillicothe and everybody involved at Chillicothe Transit for the work they have done to make the change over to the new bus route system. He said it will take a while probably because a lot of people are using it, because it is really cold out as you all know. He said he just wanted to say thank you for the work people have done on their behalf. He said he is one of the people who rides the bus regularly, so he definitely thinks of it as something he is very appreciative of.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Preston stated that she received a committee assignment on January 20th in regards to nuisance enforcement services, and she said she would like to request a committee meeting for Wednesday, January 26th at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on #22-005. She said would also like to discuss the other two carryover items that she has: assignment #21-109 regarding the \$28.50 pay rate for a temporary deputy clerk and also assignment #21-023 regarding regulating parking in City streets.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 03-22 appropriating \$2,242,401.64 for the purpose of continuing the handling of brought forward purchase orders from the year 2020 and other brought forward amounts to be put on the books of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio for the year ending December 31, 2022, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Anthony Phillips moved and Ms. Henderson seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the rule suspended. All eight members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Gieringer declared Ordinance No. 03-22 adopted.

Ms. Payne moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that Council enter into an executive session to discuss union contracts and negotiations. All members present voted "yea", and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted. At 7:30 p.m. Council left Council Chambers and the executive session was conducted for the stated purpose.

At 7:43 p.m. Council returned to Council Chambers. Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Henderson seconded that Council go out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. All members present voted "yea", and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted.

President Gieringer inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Henderson seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All eight members present voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council

