

Council met in regular session with seven members present. Those in attendance were Henderson, Fairrow, Payne, Nickerson, Park, Preston and Proehl.

Ms. Payne moved to excuse Mr. Greg Phillips and Mr. Anthony Phillips; Ms. Henderson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Mr. Greg Phillips and Mr. Anthony Phillips were excused from the June 27th Chillicothe City Council Meeting.

President Gieringer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Payne moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, Ms. Henderson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the minutes as accepted.

Ms. Preston asked to waive the three-day receipt rule for the June 16th Special Meeting minutes. Ms. Henderson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. Members Proehl, Park, Preston, Henderson, Fairrow and Payne voted "yea" to accept the special meeting minutes. Ms. Nickerson voted "no". Pres. Gieringer declared the minutes accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Affairs: In the absence of Mr. Greg Phillips, Mr. Fairrow reported this committee has one item on the agenda for the evening. Item number 2 which is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter in to an agreement with the Hope Partnership and appropriating \$20,000.00.

Human Resources: Ms. Payne reported that this committee had a meeting concerning two assignments earlier in the evening. The first being Assignment #22-064 appropriation of funds for contracted employees. The second is Assignment #22-067 Health Board assignments- another meeting about this assignment will be held this Wednesday in the City Building conference room.

Development: Ms. Nickerson reported that this committee has one item on the agenda which is a first reading of a resolution authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,709.00 as participating local funds for the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on behalf of the City of Chillicothe, OH, for the fiscal year 2023 and declaring an emergency. She also announced two committee meetings: one on street closure process and fees- July 11th at 5:30pm and the other will be concerning an assignment on public arts following the meeting at 5:30.

Finance: In the absence of Mr. Anthony Phillips, Ms. Henderson reported that this committee has two items on the agenda. Item 16 which is an ordinance appropriating \$9,514.85 in insurance funds received as security as the result of a structure fire at 375 West Water Street, Chillicothe OH, and declaring an emergency. And item number 18, which is a resolution adopting the tax budget for the City of Chillicothe, OH for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2023, submitting the same to the County Auditor, and declaring an emergency.

Park and Recreation: Ms. Henderson reported that this committee has one item on the agenda which is item 1, a resolution expressing cooperation and granting use of a certain portion of East Second Street to the Downtown Chillicothe Organization for its Oktoberfest Event. Ms. Henderson shared some announcements: Ohio Jeep Fest is coming up this weekend and next Monday will be the 4th of July celebration in the city park with fireworks starting at approximately 9:30pm.

Safety Service Committee: Ms. Preston reported that this committee has nine items on the agenda for the evening: Items 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19. At the appropriate time, Ms. Preston will ask to waive the three-read rule. A committee meeting was held earlier in the evening. There were two requests, one was from Judge Eddy in regards to allocating funds for the door that needs remodeling. The other was a request from Ms. Spetnagel in regards to updated non-bargaining pay for the fire chief, police chief and the assistant fire chief.

Engineering: Mr. Fairrow reported that this committee has four items on the agenda. Item number 3, an ordinance accepting the relocation of a drainage easement and declaring an emergency, item number 7 which is an ordinance declaring a real and present emergency, waiving the formal bidding and advertising procedure with regard to the City Administration Building boiler project, and declaring an emergency, Item number 8 which is an ordinance re-appropriating funds for the 2019 CDBG Formula Allocation Grant and declaring an emergency, Item number 9 which is an ordinance appropriating \$36,730.00 for floodwall pump repairs and declaring an emergency, and item number 17 which is an ordinance declaring a real and present emergency and waiving the formal bidding and advertising procedure with regard to the sewer repair project at the intersection of Water and Watt Streets and declaring an emergency. Waiving the three-read rule on all of these items will help to move the processes along more quickly and get contractors paid in a timely manner.

City Services/Transit: Mr. Fairrow stated that this committee has nothing on the agenda and nothing new to report.

Utilities: Mr. Proehl shared that this committee has nothing on the agenda for the evening. He did report that there was a committee meeting held earlier in the evening to talk about the water and sewer rate study. CT Consultants came in and look at our water and sewer funds.

They are enterprise funds which means they must fund themselves rather than rely on general fund. The department is looking at eventually upgrading some of the physical plants and that may constitute some changes to rates in the future.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Mayor Feeney: Mayor Feeney commented on items 7 and 17. He shared that it is pretty rare that this approach is taken but both items need emergency language so that contracts can be drawn up without the lengthy bid process. Item number 8 is unrelated to the other Watt Street project, but it is a matter of re-appropriating funds. He also mentioned the floodwall repairs and asked for support on the passage of these items. Finally, Mayor Feeney commented on item 6, the criminal trespass ordinance. He shared that he believes everyone on Council, and everyone elected has the best interest of this community in mind. He believes everyone in the room wants "people to not be homeless, people to have resources and for people to have homes and be safe." With that his thoughts are there are a lot of people in the community who are invested in this issue and this problem is not unique to Chillicothe. He shares that there are a lot of resources in the community that can help develop language for the legislation that can be pro-active and helpful. He shares concerns about law enforcement enforcing the law as written. He has concerns about managing resources. He goes on to share that he ultimately feels like this language is criminalizing being homeless and personally he feels that that is wrong. Mayor Feeney reported that the community engagement events the previous week were very successful- there is one more event tomorrow evening at 5:30 at the Scioto Township Hall. He encouraged the public to come out and share ideas. Lastly, the sinkhole issue on Watt and Water Street is still working along the timeline that was originally presented. Finally, on a positive note, a week from tonight there is a Fireworks celebration in the City Park on 4th of July. Thanks to noon rotary taking over fundraising this show will be twice as big as last year and the trolley will be running.

City Auditor Spetnagel: Ms. Spetnagel shares that she has one item on the agenda and that is a resolution concerning the tax budget for 2023. There was a public tax hearing prior to the meeting this evening.

Law Director Villarreal: Ms. Villarreal reported the overwhelming amount of work that the Law Director's office has as of late. There is an abundance of legislation and cases that they are prosecuting. Everything is backed up and crazy. She asks for everyone to be patient in the Municipal Court.

Council President Gieringer: There was no report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

President Gieringer briefed the audience on Council Rule 22 which limits each speaker to a five-minute presentation, with a limitation of 15 minutes per any single subject. Anyone who wishes to speak needs to share their name and address for the record.

Jim Bennett, 153 University Drive, Mr. Bennett shared that he was homeless for 6 months and he was able to learn a lot. He learned from the men he encountered. He shared that they were resourceful and found ways to survive. He was fortunate to have a car and special security. One thing he shares that he learned is Sundays are especially hard in the winter. HE mentioned the different places that people who are homeless shelter. Mr. Bennett is upset about the current legislation because it was "written by a person of privilege, not from one who is in between homes." Mr. Bennett suggest that the City takes on a study of homelessness and ask for their input. He asks for the legislation to be tabled and seek ways to help those who are in between homes.

Dr. Stacey Saunders- Adams, 3220 Cattail Road, Dr. Saunders-Adams shared that she has attended the meeting to testify against the proposed criminal trespass legislation. As one of the directors of the Ross County Recovery Outreach center she shares that she works directly with those who will be affected by the proposed legislation. She has firsthand insight into the problem.

Lisa Brooks, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Ms. Brooks read a statement from the Continuum of Care Director and referenced a letter that was sent to Council earlier today. "We are here to urge you to withdraw or vote against the proposed ordinance criminalizing camping on city property. The Coalition of Homelessness and Housing in Ohio provides primary staff support to the Ohio balance of State continuum of care and in this role is responsible for coordinating the systems response to homelessness.

Nathan Moore, Mr. Moore shares that he is homeless and lives on the streets. He shares that the schools that have been torn down on City property could have been used for facilities to help those who are homeless. He shares that maybe the jails need money and that is why they are proposing taking people to jail for camping on City property. He shares that if the county would drop off trash bags or barrels it would be helpful.

Stephen Ruth, Mr. Ruth shared that he has been homeless for 19 years. He shared that he published his story about walking across the US 16 times. He has stayed in communities where it is illegal to be homeless. His book is made to save lives and how to survive as a homeless

person. He also shares that his book explains how to stop homelessness. He encourages the council to make an effort to make change. His book is called "The Diary of a Drifter".

Grant Wilson, Mr. Wilson is an attorney with the public defender's office tasked with representing misdemeanor offenders. He shares that all the speakers so far are correct in how this legislation will affect the court. He feels it will be an ongoing issue and criminalizing homelessness is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem. He shares that the people who are homeless have feelings and needs, and we do not need to make them feel less human but help them get back on their feet.

Whitney Till, 401 Ringwald Street, Ms. Till shares that she experienced homelessness at 6 years old and has taken in a homeless family member while taking care of her own infant. She shares that she doesn't feel that Council is making homelessness evil- "It is not the job of this council to fix every single problem that may occur in this community and there is no obvious solution to this heartbreaking problem or else it would have been done by now." She personally does not think that unfettered use of public space is a right for people."

Shane Seyfang, Mr. Seyfang shared that he is 19 and has been in multiple rehab centers and mental institutions since being kicked out of his home at 18 years old. He shares he has had a drug problem since he was 15. "When you talk about homelessness, you're not just talking about getting them off the street, you're talking about the deeper root of their childhood- its more of a mental problem than a physical problem." He shares that the trash and mess is disrespectful, but cops sometimes pick on people who are homeless. He shares that some people would rather stay homeless.

Bill Shownam, 32 Hickory Street, Mr. Showman shared that he thinks many on council are connected to real estate and know the issue with the housing market. He shares that it is so disconnected to have this legislation on the table. Two months ago, Mr. Showman was homeless and went to an open house and through a series of events he was able to secure that housing.

Janet Griffith, 603 Commanche, Ms. Griffiths shares her concern with the livestock ordinance and that something needs to be done about the chickens in the city. She also shared her thoughts on the criminal trespass/homeless issues. She shared that homeless people have their rights, but she has her rights too. Being a blind person, she shared that it is hard when homeless people lay on the sidewalks. She has called the police about it, but they told her they can't do anything about it. She shares that if we would all respect each other this wouldn't be a problem.

Pres. Gieringer asked for a motion to suspend Council Rule 22. Mr. Proehl made the motion and Ms. Nickerson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the rule suspended.

Jason Link, 17 Mead Drive, Mr. Mead shared his concerns with the livestock ordinance. He shares that after the last meeting that he emailed his concerns to Ms. Preston and the Law Director's office. He shares that the ordinance does not go far enough to allow 4h and FFA students to house their animals on their properties. He also shares his concerns about confusing language.

Donald Wilkes, 156 Hanover Drive, Mr. Wilkes thanks the Council members and Mayor Feeney and those who have spoken. He also shares that this issue is complex and will take much work and discipline. He doesn't think the way to fix this is to "reinstitute debtors' prison".

Linda Hoover, 319 Renick Avenue, Ms. Hoover shares that the face of homelessness has now changed. They are now seeing single mothers with their children living in cars and tents. She shares that many homeless families have two parents that are working and every dime they make goes to paying for childcare and stays in a hotel. "We need to come together with agencies ...and those who have experience with this to come to a right moral decision.

Connie Scott, 392 McKell Road, Ms. McKell shares that what has happened tonight at the meeting so far has been a good thing. She believes that this legislation is going to make something wonderful happen in this community if we can gear this to continue. She asks why something has not been done yet concerning the homelessness issue. She offers her administrative giftings to help create a chart of people and organizations who are willing to help.

Tonya Johnson, Ms. Johnson shares that she has been homeless for about 5 years. She mentions her opinion of wages in Ross County being terrible. "Landlords don't want to work with us. I have a felony that is 7 years old - what am I going to do if nobody is willing to work with me?" Tearfully she shares that she wants a home.

Will Woods, Mr. Woods shares that he has been homeless for about 5 years and that he doesn't believe that when you're up, you should put people farther down. He feels that the legislation is going to make homeless people feel bad.

Christina Arredondo, 395 Allen Avenue, Ross County Recovery and Outreach Center, Ms. Arredondo shares that she spends her free time working with those who are homeless. "There is no answer." Funding is scarce but services are still being offered.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK:

Ms. Moss shared that she received a liquor license request earlier in the week from Par Mar Oil Company.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION:

A Resolution expressing cooperation and granting use of a certain portion of East Second Street to the Downtown Chillicothe Organization for its Oktoberfest Event. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared Res. #19-22 adopted.

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Hope Partnership and appropriating \$20,000.00 for the Ross County Reentry Coalition. President Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance accepting the relocation of a drainage easement and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fairrow moved to waive the three-read rule, Mr. Proehl seconded. All member in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #34-22 adopted.

A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,709.00 as participating local funds for the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on behalf of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, for the fiscal year 2023 and declaring an emergency. Pres Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance amending Section 505.14 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe as it pertains to livestock being kept or harbored within the corporation limits of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance amending Section 541.05: Criminal Trespass of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio and declaring an emergency. Ms Preston asked for this item to be committed back to the Safety Service committee for further investigation. Ms. Preston made the motion, Mr. Fairrow seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed.

An Ordinance declaring a real and present emergency, waiving the formal bidding and advertising procedure with regard to the City Administration Building boiler project, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fairrow requested to waive the three-read rule, Mr. Proehl seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All member in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #35-22 adopted.

An Ordinance re-appropriating funds for the 2019 CDBG Formula Allocation Grant and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fairrow moved to waive the three read rule, Ms. Nickerson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #36-22 as adopted.

An Ordinance appropriating \$36,730.00 for floodwall pump repairs and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fairrow moved to waive the three-read rule, Ms. Nickerson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #37-22 adopted.

An Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$500.00 from a stipend received by the Police Chief to attend Crisis Intervention Training. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance accepting and appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,301.20 for police overtime. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance accepting and appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,468.99 for the Police Department uniforms and body armor. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance accepting and appropriating insurance reimbursement funds in the amount of \$22,177.00 for the replacement of a totaled Police Department cruiser. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Walter H. Drane Company to update the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, to prepare twenty (20) sets of replacement pages, to update the Code on the internet and declaring an emergency. Ms. Preston moved to waive the three-read rule, Mr. Fairrow seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the motion passed. All member in

attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #38-22 adopted.

An Ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the Chillicothe Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency. Ms. Preston moved to waive the three-read rule, Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. 39-22 adopted.

An Ordinance appropriating \$9,514.85 in insurance funds received as security as the result of a structure fire at 375 West Water Street, Chillicothe OH, and declaring an emergency. Ms. Henderson moved to waive the three-read rule, Mr. Proehl seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. 40-22 adopted.

An Ordinance declaring a real and present emergency and waiving the formal bidding and advertising procedure with regard to the sewer repair project at the intersection of Water and Watt Streets and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fairrow moved to waive the three-read rule, Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #41-22 adopted.

A Resolution adopting the tax budget for the city of Chillicothe Ohio, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2023, submitting the same to the County Auditor, and declaring an emergency. Ms. Henderson moved to waive the three-read rule, Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the motion passed. All members in attendance voted "yea" concerning the legislation and Pres. Gieringer declared Res. #20-22 adopted.

An Ordinance addressing the provisions of amended substitute House Bill 172 concerning the right of municipalities to retain the regulations and prohibitions on the discharge, ignition and exploding of fireworks that existed prior to the enactment of amended substitute HB 172 and declaring an emergency. Ms. Preston moved to waive the three-read rule, Ms. Henderson seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. # 42-22 adopted.

President Gieringer asked if anyone had anything else to add or bring up. Mayor Feeney shared the exciting news that the Chillicothe VA would remain open.

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
June 27th, 2022
7:00pm

Pres. Gieringer called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Henderson made the motion, Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Destin Z. Proehl
Kennedy Mays - clerk of Council
Destin Z. Proehl - President Pro Tem