

Council met in regular session with eight of the nine members present: G. Phillips, Nickerson, Fairrow, Henderson, Preston, A. Phillips, Payne and Proehl. In addition to Mayor Feeney, City Auditor Spetnagel, Law Director Villarreal, the audience included members of the public and media representation.

President Gieringer welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced Kennedy Moss as his nomination for Clerk of Council moving forward. He asked for a motion to accept Ms. Moss into the position. Councilwoman Preston made the motion and Mr. Anthony Phillips seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the nomination as passed.

President Gieringer asked for a motion to excuse Ms. Gillum from the March 14th, 2022, meeting. Mr. Proehl moved, and Mrs. Nickerson seconded. All members present voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the motion as passed.

President Gieringer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Gieringer asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the February 28th regular meeting minutes. Mrs. Henderson moved that the minutes be accepted as they are, and Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and President Gieringer declared the minutes as accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Affairs Committee: Mr. Greg Phillips stated that the committee had a committee the previous week discussing legislation 21/085 the 21 denotes that it was from the previous year. It made great progress along the lines of establishing potential scenarios whereby requests for community funding can come to the city to make it more equitable and easier to navigate for the public as well as the members of city council. Mr. Greg Phillips has called for another committee meeting, and he believes that may be the last committee meeting that they would need. Community Affairs also has one item on the agenda for the meeting: Item 1, granting The Buck Fifty relay race the ability to close a certain portion of second street on April 21st-23rd for the annual race.

Human Resources Committee: Ms. Payne stated that the committee had one item on the agenda, a second read of Item 7. An ordinance establishing rates of pay and benefits for classified, non-classified and management level employees. After the first read, it was brought to the attention of the committee that there need to be a couple of adjustments to pay rates. When Mrs. Spetnagel gives her report, she will explain in detail what the changes are. At the appropriate time, Ms. Payne will move that those amendments to the ordinance are accepted by substitution.

Development Committee: Ms. Nickerson stated that the committee had nothing on the agenda and nothing to report. Finance Committee: Mr. Anthony Phillips stated that the committee had three items on the agenda. Numbers 4, 5 and 6 all of which are second readings. An ordinance accepting appropriation of \$5001.00 received as a payoff of a CHIP mortgage and declaring an emergency, an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$3,381.00in forfeiture of seized contraband and declaring an emergency, and finally an ordinance authorizing the auction of miscellaneous items, including city

owned vehicles and equipment which are not needed for public use or are obsolete or unfit for which they were acquired. According to Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15 and declaring an emergency. Parks and Recreation Committee: Mrs. Henderson stated that the committee has three items on the agenda. First is item number 8: the Kenworth Truck Parade which will take place on Saturday June 18th with the parade beginning at approximately 8:30 pm. There will be around 60 trucks. Mrs. Henderson inquired about amending and removing the emergency language. The next item is Number 9: The Yellow Day celebration on May 6th, involving the local schools in Ross County and downtown businesses doing acts of kindness. The last item is Item 10: Feast of the Flowering Moon which will occur on May 26th -May 30th, 2022. A committee meeting was held last week with an up-and-coming item: a half marathon hosted by 50 West. The Leprechaun Chase from the previous Saturday was rescheduled for April 2nd. There is another upcoming 5k on May 7th Fight Like A Kid 5k. Details can be found on Facebook. The last thing Mrs. Henderson shared was that Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma will be coming to OUC. She will be giving a lecture at Bennett Hall entitled "A History of Leadership as Service: Connecting the Personal and Professional". It will be held Monday, March 28th at 2pm. The lecture is free and open to the public. Safety Services Committee: Ms. Preston stated that the committee had three items on the agenda. First, a third reading for 21-023 amending section 351.13 of the Codified Ordinances in regard to 48-hour parking. Number 11 is an ordinance pertaining to the nuisance property code enforcement officer and it will be included in Mrs. Spetnagel's conversation in regard to Mrs. Payne's ordinance. It is being declared an emergency in order to catch up because the city wants to be able to hire a nuisance officer and it's changing the ordinance from part time to full time. The last item number 12: the first reading of an ordinance accepting and appropriating ODNR grant funds in the amount of \$1000.00 for the fire department's Fish with A Firefighter event. The event is next month, and the grant was just awarded, and it's being declared an emergency because the funds are needed for the event. She will also be asking for the three read rule to be waived. Engineering Committee: Mr. Fairrow stated that the committee had one item on the agenda. A third reading of an ordinance allowing a covered entry at 14-16 East Second Street to encroach on to the sidewalk and city right of way and relocating a streetlight and sign at the property owners expense. As stated at the previous two meetings this item has been approved by the design review board and everything has been ok'd by the city engineering department. It has been worked on since 2019 so Mr. Fairrow asked for the support of council to get the legislation passed. City Services/Transit Committee: In the absence of Ms. Gillum there was nothing to report. Utilities Committee: Mr. Proehl stated that the committee had nothing to report. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS Report of Mayor Luke Feeney: Mayor Feeney commented first on the ordinance that will be discussed by Mrs. Spetnagel as well. He appreciates working with Council to update the ordinance. What traditionally happens is this ordinance follows the negotiations of contracts and the addition that Councilwoman Preston mentioned is something that was budgeted for last year. Two essential changes will happen. One is that a request is being made to the codified ordinances, changing a part time position to a full-time position and then adjusting a pay scale. He believes it will be a solution that benefits the City at large. Moving on through agenda items, Mayor Feeney shared that the Active Attack Integrated Response Training happened last week. There were 18 EMS, 26 Law enforcement outside of the City and internally 40 Chillicothe Police Officers and 8 firefighters. He thanks both the police and the fire chiefs for the excellent work improving the safety of our community. Mayor Feeney also commented on a house fire on Western Avenue, a total loss of the house. Our FD

responded quickly. 18 firefighters from the city department respond. The foundation of the house within 24 hours was visibly shifting so the engineering dept. got out quickly and worked to safely remedy the situation. Good example of the Fire Dept and other departments working well together. Mayor Feeney also wanted to that the mutual aid that was received from the VA. There were 4 VA firefighters at that fire, and he really appreciates the work together that was done. On that note, he shares, related to the VA, a report was released concerning recommendations for the Chillicothe VA. The proposal as he understands it would largely close down the facility in the location at and the services that it currently provides. It would not necessarily remove all services from Ross County but it is unclear at this time what the proposal would do for Ross County or the City. There are specific things proposed, one of which would be building a new facility in Pickaway County. He states that personally his family and many veterans he knows have gotten services from the Chillicothe VA. He is certain that there will be a strong and assertive response from our community. He wanted to make sure council was well aware of the situation and states that he will keep council informed. He will personally be doing everything he can to keep those services here in Ross County. Mayor Feeney stated that we would all be well served to educate ourselves and advocate for an outcome that keeps high quality range of services for veterans right here in Ross County. Report of Auditor Spetnagel: Mrs. Spetnagel stated that the Auditor's office had no new items on the agenda, but they would like to amend item number 7 by substitution. That is an ordinance establishing the pay rates of the non classified and classified bargaining unit. A couple of changes were made. The court reporter and the court aid should have been at the same rate. They added the nuisance officer on page 2 with a step increase of three years. The Auditor's office has closed the books for February so those statements will be received soon. Auditor Spetnagel announced a budget review for March 28th at 6:30pm.

Report of Law Director Anna Villarreal: Law Director Villarreal stated that they have been asked questions concerning what the Law Director staff actually do? She shared that the staff is busy from the time they arrive until the time that they leave every day. During the day the staff addresses things such as preparation of the legislation, research, addressing calls from various city depts. And citizens concerning the city matters and municipal court matters. Those include witnesses, victims and everyone else. They manage the schedule and the payroll, and a majority of those particular things are done by the office manager. She shares that the office employs two full time employees that handle preparation of all cases that are being handled in the Chillicothe Municipal Court. These two people each get one court room. They each get two prosecutors in all of their cases every week. It is a huge load. They have to physically open the file, obtain the proper law enforcement reports, lab reports, videos, all supplemental evidence. They have to review all the evidence, issue subpoenas for victims and witnesses. She states that there is a lot involved. She shared that that week in one courtroom there were three trials stacked in one courtroom and two in the other. All five of those cases had to be prepared to go to trial. There is also one additional staff member that's part time. She closes the case files, prepares video evidence for discovery purposes, files paperwork, and helps answer the phones. Law Director Villarreal asked everyone to keep in mind that there are only four people in that office and of one takes a vacation or is off for any reason, everyone else has to pick up that person's duties. There are deadlines that have to be met. She reminded city chairpeople to submit legislation timely, due to anticipated time-off and vacations. Their goal is to prepare everything in a timely manner, therefore last

second legislation requests are not encouraged during this busy season. Additionally, the office is exploring new options for video evidence storage that could reduce the cost related to the cloud storage of the evidence that is currently being used.

Report of Council President Gieringer: President Gieringer stated in regard to the Health Board nomination: Mayor Feeney had resubmitted Dr. John Gabis for nomination from the city for the seat on the Health District Board. He asked for a motion for Dr. Gabis' nomination. Ms. Nickerson moved, and Mr. Proehl seconded. Nickerson voted "yes", Preton voted "no", Proehl voted "yes", Henderson voted "no", Mrs. Payne thank those who reached out to her concerning this nomination. She shared that she needed to vote as her constituents want her to and that would be "no", Anthony Phillips voted "no", Fairrow voted "yes" and Greg Phillips voted "yes". President Gieringer declared that it resulted in a 4-4 tie. President Gieringer declared that after input from the Law Director, review of Robert's Rules and Council Rules, as a 4-4 tie, this nomination fails.

Audience Participation:

The audience was briefed by President Gieringer on council rule 22 which gives each speaker 5 minutes to present, with a total limitation of 15 minutes per any single subject.

Jeanne Moore, 251 Knowles Avenue. She was in attendance of the meeting 4 weeks ago where the public gathered to present their views of Dr. Gabis and Ceil Corcoran. She shared that she thought it was clear how the audience felt about the nominees. Her question is for those voting "no", why did they vote that way? How do you know or poll your constituents? She would like to know why. Mrs. Henderson shared that she thinks the election results speak for themselves in how the city voters expect Council to vote. Ms. Moore expects those she voted for to represent Chillicothe as a whole, not a republican or a democrat. She believes that votes should be in the best interest of the city, not a republican or democrat. Ms. Moore asked those voting "no" what their constituents say about why do not want Dr. Gabis to hold that role. When no answer was given, Ms. Moore stated that she was appalled. She shared "I dare any one of you to walk where he has been with our homeless and substance abuse neighborhoods".

Jody Tippy, 643 Pickens Ave. She has known Dr. Gabis for 20 years and she is astounded that Council would vote no on a position that isn't even paid. She states that he is a pillar of the community, so is Ceil Corcoran. She shared that the voters are watching and paying attention and will see what happens next election. She shared that she doesn't understand and stated that this vote shouldn't have anything to do with party lines. It has everything to do with the community of Chillicothe

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business brought up for discussion.

There was no petitions or correspondence received by the clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up for discussion.

Committee Assignments and Meeting Dates:

There was nothing to report.

Reading and Passage of Legislation:

Third reading a resolution granting use of a certain portion of second straight to the Buck 50 Inc from April 21st 2022 through April 23rd 2022 for its annual buck 50 relay race. All members in attendance voted "yes" with the exception of Mrs. Henderson who abstained.

Third reading of an Ordinance amending 351.13 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, OH. All members in attendance voted "yes". President Gieringer declared the legislation as passed.

Third reading of an ordinance allowing a covered entry at 14-16 E 2nd St to encroach onto the sidewalk and city right of way and relocating a streetlight at the property owners expense. All members in attendance voted "yes" and President Gieringer declared the legislation as passed.

Second reading of an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$5001 received as a payoff of a CHIP mortgage and declaring an emergency. President Gieringer declared that the legislation would move to the next agenda.

Second reading item number 5 is the second reading of an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$3381 in forfeiture of contraband funds and declaring an emergency. President Gieringer declared that the legislation would move to the next agenda.

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing the auction of miscellaneous items including city owned vehicles and equipment which are not needed for public use or are obsolete or unfit for the use for which they were acquired in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code section 721.15 and declaring an emergency. President Gieringer declared that the legislation would move to the next agenda.

Second reading of an ordinance establishing rates of pay and other economic benefits for non-classified, classified and management level employees of the city of Chillicothe OH and declaring an emergency. Ms Payne requested an amendment by substitution. President Gieringer called for a motion to amend. Mr. Phillips moved, and Mr. Fairrow seconded. All members in attendance voted "yes". President Gieringer declared that the legislation would move to the next meeting.

First reading of a resolution granting the use of certain city streets for the Kenworth truck parade on Saturday June 18th, 2022 and declaring an emergency. Mrs. Henderson moved to amend the legislation and remove the emergency language. Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yes" to remove emergency language. President Gieringer declared the motion as passed and that the legislation would move to the next meeting.

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
March 14th, 2022
7:00 pm

First reading of a resolution expressing cooperation and granting use of a certain portion of Paint St to the downtown Chillicothe organization for its Yellow Day celebration on May 6th, 2022. President Gieringer declared this legislation would move to the next agenda.

First reading of a resolution granting the use of the City Park and surrounding streets from Thursday May 26th 2022 at 8:00 AM through Monday May 30th 2022 at 11:00 AM for the preparation, operation and cleanup of the annual Feast of the Flowering Moon and providing for coordination of its events with the city Parks and Recreation department. President Gieringer declared that this legislation item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an ordinance amending Section 121.021(h) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe as it pertains to nuisance property code enforcement and declaring an emergency. President Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an ordinance accepting and appropriating ODNR grant funds in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Fire Department's Fish with a Firefighter event and declaring an emergency. Mrs. Preston moved to waive the three-read rule. Mr. Greg Phillips seconded. All members present voted "yes" to remove the three-read rule. President Gieringer declared the motion as passed. All members in attendance voted "yes" and President Gieringer declared the legislation as passed.

President Gieringer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Henderson moved, and Mr. Fairrow seconded. All members in attendance voted "yes".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



Gregory Phillips
Clerk of Council