

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

Ms. Preston made a motion to approve Penny Lamb as interim clerk for the evening. Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed.

Pres. Gieringer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Pres. Gieringer asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Henderson made the motion and Mr. Greg Phillips seconded. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the minutes accepted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Community Affairs:** Mr. Greg Phillips stated that this committee held a meeting last Monday concerning the Ross County Reentry Coalition with Mr. Wayne McLaughlin who explained what the program entails. The request has been sent to the Law Director and it should appear on the agenda at the next regular City Council meeting.

**Human Resources:** Ms. Payne stated that this committee has nothing on the agenda and nothing to report.

**Development:** Ms. Nickerson stated that this committee has nothing on the agenda. Ms. Nickerson thanks all organizations and volunteers involved in creating such a special Christmas season in the city & the park.

**Finance:** Mr. Tony Phillips shared that this committee has nothing on the agenda. This committee held two meetings earlier in the evening. One was for salary and the finance committee will be calling for a special council meeting on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> and there will also be several other committee assignment things that will be added to that. This committee will move forward with the 2023 city budget. Mr. Phillips will make a motion to waive the three-day receipt rule and get that item added to the agenda for a first read tonight and it will be on the special agenda for a second read.

**Parks and Recreation:** Ms. Henderson shared that this committee has one item on the agenda which is a resolution expressing cooperation and granting use of a certain portion of Paint Street to Race Penguin, LLC for the Chillicothe Half Marathon. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chillicothe Half Marathon and will have updated race map to incorporate a little bit more of Chillicothe. She also mentioned the tree lighting and lights in the park. There is a Parks & Rec committee assignment regarding two parcels of land on Wade Street in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward. Mrs. Pat Patrick has donated these for a city park which would be the first city park in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward.

**City Service/Transit:** Mr. Fairrow shared that this committee has nothing on the agenda and nothing to report.

**Engineering:** Mr. Fairrow stated that this committee has one item on the agenda which is an ordinance appropriating \$16,000.00 for plaster and painting at the City of Chillicothe Administration Building and this item will move on to the next agenda.

**Safety Service:** Ms. Preston shared that this committee has one item on the agenda which is the third reading of an ordinance amending sections 1709.02(d) Weeds, 138.03 Nuisance Abatement Definitions, and 138.06 Notice of Nuisance or Repeat Nuisance Service of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe. It is a three-part investigation. This is the first, the next part will be junk vehicles and trash. Ms. Preston called for a committee meeting next Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The two assignments that will be discussed are 22-140 indigent defense agreement and 22-069.

**Utilities:** Mr. Proehl stated that this committee has no items on the agenda, but a committee meeting was held earlier in the evening to discuss sewage plant rate increases and have come up with a recommendation that the committee feel is worthy of being sent to the full Council. It should be on the agenda in coming weeks.

## REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

**Mayor Feeney:** Due to illness, Mayor Feeney was absent.

**Auditor Spetnagel:** Ms. Spetnagel shared that the three-day receipt will be requested to be waived. The Auditor's office is working on year-end closing, so it is very busy.

**Law Director Villarreal:** Ms. Villarreal shared that her office is in process of revamping and trying to update the forms they use.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

John Thacker, 990 Columbus Street, Apt. 307, Mr. Thacker shares his thanks for the removal of the plexiglass in chambers and with the unobstructed view he thinks Pres. Gieringer looks like Harry Styles.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Brown shared a comment:

"On December 5th there was an article posted in the Chillicothe Gazette. It referenced the proposed 2023 city budget and alluded to a distrust between this council and city leadership that I don't agree with. I was perplexed to think about how a typical citizen may have interpreted that piece in The Gazette. It's clear to me that faith in our government institutions are eroding which is something I believe is an existential crisis not just in our community but our country abroad. I just wanted to take this time to emphatically declare my support and confidence in our City's administration and our City's finance officers and the totality of our City department heads. Whether it was intentional or not, the dynamic in that Gazette article was damaging to the way the public perceives our local government to function. I continue to commit to be intentional about the way I speak about my peers in local government, even those members with ideological differences that I fundamentally disagree with. I think it's about civility and being kind but it's also about maintaining a trust and respect for our public institutions and the people who lead them. Thank you."

Mr. Anthony Phillips responded: "Thank you Jamie, I concur with that. Was anyone else aware of that article? Was it a citizen that put it in there or who? A Council person wrote that? Okay."

Ms. Henderson interjected: "He is discussing an article regarding my irritation in the email that I submitted wishing for the updated information on the budget."

Mr. Anthony Phillips: "Okay, well I think, I guess I'll speak for myself.... I think I speak for most of us that I think we proved tonight that we are all in agreement and we've endorsed our confidence in Kristal and our other government officials that the budget looks great and I don't think the time we took to review that was unreasonable, so you know I dismissed that. Not seeing the article..."

Mr. Brown: "To reiterate, I do think we had a great conversation at that budget meeting. I guess my remarks are specific about the weight of the language we use and specifically the idea that we were denied specific requests, I just believe that there were documents and processes that hadn't been accomplished yet. I definitely appreciate the irritation maybe at a timespan that wasn't expected. Maybe it took longer than some of us anticipated, and I completely appreciate that position. I just feel as if the particular article...I was asked about the health and if there was drama inside the departments and I was a little put off by it."

Mr. Anthony Phillips made a motion to waive the three-day receipt rule on the 2023 budget, Mr. Proehl seconded. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed.

Ms. Henderson made a motion to set the time for the special meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for 7pm, Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION:**

Third reading of an ordinance amending Sections 1709.02(d) Weeds, 138.03 Nuisance Abatement definitions, and 138.06 Notice of Nuisance or Repeat Nuisance Service of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared Ord. #89-22 adopted.

Second reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$16,000.00 for plaster and painting at the City of Chillicothe Administration Building. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of a resolution expressing cooperation and granting the use of a certain portion of Paint Street to Race Penguin, LLC for the Chillicothe Half Marathon. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an ordinance to make appropriation for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Chillicothe, State of Ohio during the fiscal year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and declaring an emergency. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

Miss Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Fairrow seconded. All members in attendance voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.