

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

President Gieringer asked for a motion to excuse Mr. Fairrow and Mr. Proehl from the meeting. Ms. Payne made the motion and Mr. Greg Phillips seconded. Members voting “yea” were G. Phillips, A. Phillips, Payne, Preston, Nickerson, and Henderson. President Gieringer declared the members excused.

President Gieringer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In a small oversight, President Gieringer asked for a motion to excuse Ms. Park from the meeting. Ms. Henderson made the motion and Mr. Anthony Phillips seconded. Members voting “yea” were G. Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Henderson, Preston, A. Phillips and Pres. Gieringer declared Ms. Park excused.

Pres. Gieringer asked if there were any additions or corrections to the previous meeting minutes, and Ms. Preston requested an amendment to the last meeting minutes concerning a vote that was taken to excuse members. On the minutes it is listed as “all members in attendance voted “yea”” when actually, 3 specific members (Payne, Preston, G. Phillips) abstained from voting. Ms. Preston made the motion, Ms. Henderson seconded. Council members Preston, A. Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Henderson, G. Phillips all voted “yea” and Pres. Gieringer declared the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Mr. Greg Phillips stated that this committee has no items on the agenda but held a meeting earlier in the evening concerning Assignment 22-101 which is accepting one of the first of 18 payments from an Ohio Opioid settlement and creating a separate fund for those monies.

DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Nickerson stated that this committee has nothing on the agenda and nothing to report.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Ms. Payne stated that she was thankful for the paving that has taken place on her road and in her neighborhood. There was a meeting held with one of the Health District Board candidates and hopefully can meet with the second candidate next week so the matter can be brought before council. This committee has item number 10 on the agenda which is 22-088 to appropriate funds for the increase cost for city wide insurance plans.

FINANCE: Mr. Anthony Phillips stated that this committee has three items on the agenda. The first item is an ordinance allowing the city auditor to transfer appropriated dollars between

salaries and fringes if needed on an emergency basis for the remainder of the year 2022. The second item is an ordinance appropriating \$50,000.00 for city income tax refunds and transferring funds back to the general fund. The last item is an ordinance appropriating funds for various end of year expenses.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Ms. Henderson stated that this committee has one item on the agenda which is an ordinance appropriating \$35,000. 00 to complete the purchase of a lawn mower. The Parks and Rec board asked Ms. Henderson to announce that they had a very successful swimming pool season. Due to staffing issues, around half the pools in Ohio were unable to open this year. The Tree Commission is set to begin planting trees in September. A committee meeting was held earlier in the evening regarding a street closure for Chili Fest (September 24th, 2022.)

CITY SERVICES/TRSANSIT: In the absence of Mr. Fairrow there was nothing to report.

ENGINEERING: In the absence of Mr. Fairrow there was nothing to report.

SAFETY SERVICE: Ms. Preston stated that this committee has five items on the agenda. The first is an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$492.31 received from the Chillicothe Country Club as payment for having City Fire Inspector and a fire truck in attendance for their members only fireworks viewing party. The next is an ordinance accepting and appropriating a reimbursement check from the Ohio Attorney General's office in regards to Narcan purchasing. The next is an ordinance accepting and appropriating a reimbursement check from Dana Transport Inc. for a hazmat situation. The next is an ordinance establishing rates of pay and other economic benefits for employees within the safety service department. Finally, is an ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 in Municipal Court funds.

UTILITIES: In the absence of Mr. Proehl there was nothing to report

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Mayor Luke Feeney: Mayor Feeney shared that he attended the Engineering committee meeting and there was one item that was related to a mower and the funds surrounding that. Due to inflation, the amount on the committee assignment request was different than the actual quote. According to the vendor, the price quoted is still good. There will be another committee meeting in 3 weeks. Mayor Feeney updated about the repairs of the sinkhole at Watt and Water Street, the current estimate of completion is on or before September 30th. Also, of note, for the first time since covid the city has hired 2 police officers who will be sent through the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Through negotiations with the bargaining unit, there has been approval of lateral transfers in the law enforcement departments in the city. The city received a grant of 1.6 million dollars for hiring over the next two years and

through that the city will ask for authorization to immediately begin hiring. Finally, Mayor Feeney offered a thank you related to US Navy Musician 1st Class Joseph Hoffman and his return home to Chillicothe after being missing in action and presumed dead for over 80 years. It was a historic day and one that was really special for this community.

Auditor Kristal Spetnagel: Ms. Spetnagel shared that the Auditor’s office does not have items on the agenda but there was budget review held prior to the meeting. The results of the Audit have been received and our city got an “unqualified opinion” and that is one of the best opinions you can get.

Law Director Anna Villarreal: Ms. Villarreal stated that her office expects to request that the part time staff position be transitioned to a full-time position. When reviewing job responsibilities from 10 years ago to now, the staff have taken on more responsibilities. Ms. Villarreal stated that the office continues to process hundreds of cases and she expressed appreciation for the Assistant Law Directors and the staff to put together all of the information necessary to win cases for the City of Chillicothe. “Lastly, we were saddened to hear about the death of Lt. Mont Steele of the Sheriff’s Office. Our condolences to the family and the Sheriff’s Office.”

President Joe Gieringer: Pres. Gieringer did not have anything to report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

President Gieringer briefed the audience on Council Rule 22 which limits each participant to a 5-minute presentation and a limitation of 15 minutes per any single subject.

John Thacker, 990 Columbus Street Apt. 307, Mr. Thacker expressed that he is thrilled about the McArthur school “disappearing” and is hopeful that something good will go there in its place. Mr. Thacker mentions the garden of Mr. Holten and shares that it is the best garden in Chillicothe. He expressed his thanks to Chillicothe Transit for providing free rides to the Ross County Fair this year. Mr. Thacker also shared that he heard the trolley would be extended into September. ***Mayor Feeney interjected that the trolley is still within a testing period and the current test is Fridays and Saturday and Tuesdays. A new test with modified routes is happening now. There was a neighborhood route tested during one of the First Thursday events and it was popular.

Tom Sprouse, 168 Burbridge, Mr. Sprouse shared his concern about the homeless population in Chillicothe. He is from Medina and lived there for over 30 years and he said on that area there isn't nearly as many people sleeping in the parks. Recently this year, Mr. Sprouse purchased a scooter and rides it around town and in the parks. He shares how scary it is. He mentions drug use and all the people who are living off the city and taking up city resources. He thinks something needs to be done. He mentioned going for a ride late at night and he was chased by two people. He is concerned for people wanting to picnic in the park and not being able to and shares concerns about all the garbage left behind. Mr. Sprouse encourages council to go to the parks and look at all that is going on so they can see for themselves.

***Ms. Preston made a motion to extend Mr. Sprouse's time and Ms. Payne seconded. All members in attendance voted "yea" and the motion was passed. ***

Mr. Sprouse would like to see the Council and the Mayor go into the park and take a good hard look. There are blessing boxes around town and the food is out of date. He shares that the world is not free and he believes it is time for "tough love". "This is a great little town here and they (homeless) are destroying it." He expresses concern over all of the vacant houses and wonders what the city is going to do about it. "Our parks are not a campground."

Michael Cade, 380 Meadow Lane, Mr. Cade shared that the homeless situation is such a hard topic. Landmark Church does work to help the homeless. Mr. Cade shares that his neighbor passed away a few months ago and Mr. Colburn of Colburn Farms has purchased that property (8-10 acres). He shares his concern with the farm purchasing that property. For the last 5 weeks, Mr. Cade has witnessed 80 trucks a day, 5 days a week from 7-5 being run on the streets in his neighborhood. To help with the sound and fumes, Mr. Cade and his wife are rearranging their house. The last thing he shares is that he has been very diligent in looking for another house. He shares it has been a difficult thing to do, due to financial factors and how quickly houses are moving on and off the market.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to report.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION:

Second reading of an Ordinance allowing the City Auditor to transfer appropriated dollars between salaries and fringes within the same fund if needed on an emergency basis for the remainder of the year 2022. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

Second reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$35, 000.00 to complete the purchase of a lawn mower for the Parks and Recreation Department. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

Second reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$50, 000.00 for city income tax refunds, transferring funds back to the general fund to support the proportionate share of the income tax refunds, and declaring an emergency. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$492.31 received from the Chillicothe Country Club as payment for having a City Fire Inspector and fire truck in attendance at their members only fireworks display. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating a reimbursement check from the State of Ohio Attorney General's office in the amount of \$420.00. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance accepting and appropriating a reimbursement check from Dana Transport, Inc. in the amount of \$954.32. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds for various end-of-year expenses. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance establishing rates of pay and other economic benefits for non-bargaining employees within the Safety Services Departments and declaring an emergency. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Municipal Court dormant account refunds for the remainder of 2022 and declaring an emergency. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of an Ordinance appropriating funds to cover an increase in costs of city-wide property and casualty insurance policies and declaring an emergency. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

First reading of a Resolution authorizing the City of Chillicothe to apply for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Urban Canopy Restoration grant program. Pres. Gieringer declared this item would move to the next agenda.

Pres. Gieringer asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Payne made the motion, Ms. Henderson seconded. The meeting was adjourned AT 7:48PM.