

Video Conference  
Regular Meeting  
March 8, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

Council met via video conference in regular session with all of the nine members present: Phillips, Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Gillum, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. Also, in attendance were Mayor Feeney, City Auditor Spetnagel and Law Director Villarreal. This meeting was video conferenced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and followed the guidelines of the Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost, allowing the public to listen to the meeting safely.

Mr. Phillips moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Safety Service Committee:**

Ms. Gillum stated that the Safety Service Committee will have a committee meeting before the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to go over the livestock within City limits legislation. She indicated that she will be sending out some information to Council members prior to that meeting. She stated that they do have one item on the agenda, Item #4, which is the first reading of an ordinance appropriating funds in the amount of \$6,997.73 for the installation of a MARCS Radio and extra equipment to enable the Fire Department's new squad to be functional, and declaring an emergency. Ms. Gillum stated that at the appropriate time she will ask Council to waive the three-read rule.

### **Development Committee:**

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that she did not have anything to report at this time.

### **Finance / Technology Committee:**

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that he did not have anything to report at this time as well.

### **Engineering Committee:**

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that he did not have anything to report on.

### **Utilities Committee:**

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have any items on the agenda. He said that he is impressed with our budget and that he feels a lot better now after 2020. He added that hopefully going forward we are going to be in good shape.

### **City Services / Transit Committee:**

Ms. Lewis reported that the City Services Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #2, which is the first reading of a Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for grants through the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration as authorized under Federal Transit Laws....accepting such grants if awarded, executing a contract with ODOT upon project approval, and declaring an emergency. She stated that due to the constraints of when the grant will be needed, she will ask to waive the three-read rule at the appropriate time. Ms. Lewis said that after meeting with Mayor Feeney and the Director of Transportation, Asti Powell a couple of weeks ago, she had some updates to share from Director Powell of things that Transit has been doing this year. She said that City Transit has waived all fees for the rest of the year 2021. She also stated some of the highlights of things they have done so far this year, such as providing transportation service to and from the emergency shelter and at times taking individuals to work and back to the shelter at night as needed. They have also

partnered with Chillicothe City Schools in delivering weekly meals to families who are remote learning and are unable to pick up food in person, delivering about 70 meals per week. When we had lots of snow a couple of weeks ago, they assisted the school with delivering snow day meals when the bad weather caused school to be closed. She said that in that two-week period Transit delivered over 1200 meals, ensuring that kids had access to nutritious meals when school was closed. Also using the vans purchased with the money from the CARES Act fund they are providing temporary, door-to-door, on-demand service to high-risk and highly vulnerable populations, and these trips so far have been to vaccination clinics and critical medical appointments such as dialysis and cancer treatments. Ms. Lewis stated that it has been a joy to work with Director Powell so far and that they have some pretty good goals this year.

#### **Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Phillips stated that the Community Affairs Committee had one item on the agenda, Item #1, which is the second reading an Ordinance supporting a Community Yard Sale to be held the weekend of Friday, June 4, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021 and waiving the yard sale permit fee of five dollars for that weekend. Mr. Phillips said that he would just let that go on to a third read. He said once again we are still in a pandemic, so there is no real rush to pass this community event that is set for June.

#### **Human Resources Committee:**

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any new items to report on for this meeting; however, at the appropriate time she would like to make a motion to enter into executive session to discuss preparation for collective bargaining strategies.

#### **Parks & Recreation Committee:**

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee had one item on the agenda, hoping we are able to have our annual fireworks and gather in the park again, Item #3, which is the first reading of an Ordinance authorizing the City of Chillicothe to accept donations for the City's Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Ms. Corcoran said that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule, so just in case anybody out there would like to donate to the fireworks we can accept their money.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

#### **Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney stated that he just wanted to follow up on his finance presentation of the 2021 permanent budget and wanted to thank Auditor Spetnagel for her hard work on the temporary budget and now this budget, essentially doing two budgets in the last three months. He said he has been through the process of doing one, never two, and he does not envy what she has gone through. He said as Councilman Tatman had mentioned, we did end 2020 in a position that is much more secure than really what he would have imagined maybe in April of last year. He said a lot of things went right last year despite the pandemic: income taxes remained healthy; we had significant sacrifice from employees in the SharedWork Ohio program; a lot of things were very difficult for employees in the City suffering through COVID and delivering essential services; there were a lot of retirements and we experienced loss, particularly in the Police Department, which has been an ongoing challenge. Mayor Feeney said then we had a couple of really fortunate windfalls, one of which and probably the single item that makes the general fund balance look even more healthy, was a rebate from the Bureau of Workers Compensation, which was north of \$1 million. He said while we ended the year in a strong position, that was not without sacrifice and some help.

Mayor Feeney stated that in addition to our proposed permanent budget for the 2021 cycle, there are just a few other things he would like to bring up. One is we have a second relief package that has been passed, the details of which for local governments are promising, but there is still a lot for us to process. He said that will undoubtedly have a significant impact on this community for 2021. He added that we have really had a lot of success over the past 12 months in going back and seeking and acquiring grants. He stated that our Fire Department SAFER Grant is ending, but there is new cycle there that he has been told relates to retention of employees, so we will be seeking help there.

Mayor Feeney said we will continue to make the most of the taxpayers' dollars and seek grant

funding and outside sources to improve our position for the remainder of this year. He thanked Council for their time and attention during not only the presentation earlier but for all of them to go through two budget cycles in three months is a challenge, particularly for many of them who this is their first go at it. He said there is a lot to consume, a lot of information to process, and so he thanked them for their patience and hard work and for bearing with us for the past year, and supporting the City Administration staff. He said he is looking forward to putting the City in a position for growth coming out this pandemic.

#### **Report of Auditor Spetnagel:**

City Auditor Spetnagel stated that she did not have any items on the agenda, but that just to follow up on what the Mayor said. If you have any questions on what was presented earlier, please feel free to reach out to her. She said it was really nice having the Mayor present all of her financial information. She said there are two things that they do have going on in her office, and she just wanted to remind everyone. Income taxes for the City are due on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> which is on a Thursday this year. She said the Income Tax Department will be offering four full days of extended tax hours beginning Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and will be open 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. She stated that this will allow everybody a little extra time to come in and file their taxes, and her office can actually assist the public with doing so. She said they will also have an additional window open to help with social distancing. Auditor Spetnagel stated that you can now e-file and e-pay through online reporting and said can go to the City's website and go to the Income Tax Department's section and file your taxes there. She stated that those are two new things that are happening in the Income Tax Department.

#### **Report of Law Director Villarreal:**

City Law Director Villarreal stated that it has been very, very busy and very hectic the last 1½ weeks in her office. They have had a lot of staff out with COVID and also due to quarantine, which resulted in three out of four Assistant Law Directors being forced to quarantine, leaving them with one Assistant Law Director trying to cover both courtrooms. She said that this resulted in phone calls from an angry Judge, and they have been dealing with that. She stated that they have also had an additional issue with an Assistant Law Director having a kidney stone today. She said they are absolutely swamped, and everybody is working really late trying to get caught up. She added that they do have a lot of requests coming in through email and paper that they are wading through, and that they will get it out to you as soon as they can.

#### **Report of President Arnold:**

President Arnold said his report does not consist of a whole lot but that he would like to say that it was good news from the Auditor's office. He is glad to know that we are healthier than what he thinks we all thought we were going to be. He said one thing he would like to bring up is that he has had some people get in touch with him on parking situations. He stated that he is not talking about parking in the downtown area, but about vehicles that are parked out on the street that really are not typically street parking, like RV's, trailers, construction equipment, and that type of thing. He said that he has seen this in various places while driving around town. He said it seems like people are trying to skirt the regulations by moving within 48 hours to keep up with what ordinance we do have. He has looked through the ordinances himself to try to find anything that would work. He stated that he has even talked to Chief Meyers and Officer Yoder of the Police Department, and there really is nothing that can be done with the current legislation. He said he is going to put forth the assignment to deal with this and for Council to look at it. He said he is sure that there are other cities that have come up with provisions that probably have incorporated similarly. He said he just wanted to make that announcement that he does want to put this up and that Ms. Gillum will be getting an assignment from him dealing with that to see what we can do.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

President Arnold provided information during the public participation portion of the Council meeting to enable the public to communicate with City Council if desired. He added that contact information for any other time is on the website for each Council person if anyone needs to contact them.

Reverend Terry Williams said he was really just listening in today but that he will take the opportunity to applaud all of Council for making local government accessible to all of us. He added that we really do appreciate it.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Shoemaker asked what the plans were for getting City Council meetings back in Council chambers

President Arnold replied that barring whenever the restrictions are let up, he is getting together with someone who will be installing all of the cameras and getting that all fitted up. He said he has been in touch with a video company that is going to come in and set up the programming for everything and sync everything together. He said if things go well within two weeks that everything will be ready at least at the end of the month. If the restrictions are let up soon, he is shooting for a date, possibly the first meeting of April, that we will be able to hold that in Council chambers. He asked what everyone's opinion was on this as far as coming back into Council Chamber as well, and asked for them to please let him know.

## PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the receipt of two notices from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. The first notice was for the issuance of a permit and Transfer of Ownership and Location for Confections by Ce Ce, LLC, DBA: Market No 9. located at 80 North Paint Street in Chillicothe, Ohio, transferring ownership to Wild Roots Botanicals, LLC, located at 59 East Water Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Only. The second notice was for the issuance of a new permit for Altos Ohio, LLC, DBA: Rosa's Mexican Grill located at 10 River Trace Drive in Chillicothe, Ohio.

There were no objections by Council to these permit applications.

## COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

There will be a Budget Review March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, March 22<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Prior to Council meeting there will be a Safety Service Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Engineering:** Request for legislation to appropriate \$25,000 received from Atomic Credit Union for improvements at the intersection on Western Avenue and Limestone Boulevard

**Safety Services:** Request for legislation to accept and appropriate \$1,000 received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Fire Department's Annual Fishing Derby

**Finance:** Request for legislation to accept a refund of \$3,525.24 from Accurate for overpayment

## READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

An Ordinance supporting a Community Yard Sale to be held the weekend of Friday, June 4, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021 and waiving the yard sale permit fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for that weekend was read for the second time by title only.

Res. No. 05-21 authorizing the filing of applications with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for grants through the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized under Federal Transit Laws, as codified, 49 USC Section 5311, Formula Grants for Rural Areas, and the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) Grant, both in Ohio's Rural Transportation Program and grants authorized under Federal Transit Laws, as codified, 49 US Section 5339, Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities, Ohio's Bus and Bus Facilities Transportation Program, accepting such grants if awarded, executing a contract with ODOT upon project approval, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Lewis moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All nine members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 05-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 12-21 authorizing the City of Chillicothe to accept donations for the City's Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Display was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Corcoran moved and Mr. Phillips seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All nine members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All nine members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 12-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 13-21 appropriating funds in the amount of \$6,997.73 for the installation of a MARCS Radio and extra equipment to enable the Fire Department's new squad to be functional, and

declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Gillum moved and Mr. Proehl seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All nine members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All nine members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 13-21 adopted.

Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Council enter into an executive session to discuss preparation for collective bargaining strategies. All nine members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. At 7:41 p.m. Council logged off of Facebook Live and the executive session was conducted for the stated purpose.

At 7:51 p.m. Council returned to Facebook Live. Ms. Payne moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Council go out of the executive session and resume the regular meeting. All nine members present voted “yea”, and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Tatman moved and Mr. Shoemaker seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All nine members present voted “yea” and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council