

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Council met in regular session with seven of the nine members present: Payne, Nickerson, Tatman, Lewis, Shoemaker, Corcoran and Proehl. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Gillum were absent. Also, in attendance was one visitor in the audience, in addition to Mayor Feeney, City Auditor Spetnagel and Law Director Villarreal.

President Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Proehl moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that Mr. Phillips and Ms. Gillum be excused from the evening's City Council meeting. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 24, 2021 be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Services:

Ms. Lewis stated that the City Services Committee did not have any items on the agenda, but she said that there was a committee meeting prior to this Council meeting to discuss the Ross County Active Transportation Plan that her committee is working on. She said it is very exciting to look through and is looking forward to that legislation.

Utilities Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported that the Utilities Committee did not have anything on the agenda, and that he did not have anything else to address at this time.

Development Committee:

Ms. Nickerson stated that the Development Committee had three items on the agenda, Item #1, which is the third reading of an Ordinance appropriating \$20,091.34 from the HUD Revolving Loan Fund for use towards funding a CHIP Grant Owner Rehabilitation Project; Item #2, which is the first reading of a Resolution authorizing the Ohio Regional Development Corporation to file an application with the State of Ohio Development Services Agency on behalf of the City of Chillicothe to participate in the 2021 CDBG Community Development Allocation Program; Item #3, which is the first reading of a Resolution authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,283.00 as participating local finds for the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on behalf of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio. Ms. Nickerson stated that at the appropriate time she will ask to waive the three-read rule on Items #2 and #3 because of the time constraints.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Engineering Committee did not have anything on the agenda and that there was nothing new to report.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the Human Resources Committee did not have any items on the agenda and there were no new items to report on.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Ms. Corcoran reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that she did not have any other items coming up for her committee.

Finance / Technology Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported the Finance Committee did not have any items on the agenda and that that concluded his report.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Feeney:

Mayor Feeney stated that it is good to be back in Council Chambers and thanked President Arnold for all of his efforts with the fancy new equipment. He said first of all he will comment on tonight's agenda items. He said he supports the passage of Item #1, as well as the passage of Items #2 and #3 with the waiver of the three-read rule. He said he would like to offer some clarity on Item #2 and said that we receive based on our population size a Community Development Block Grant Allocation, which is a standard amount of money, that used to be an annual sum and now it's awarded every two years. He said that with this Resolution tonight Council is authorizing essentially the City's application and receipt of that money. He said the way the Resolution reads, we are very busy internally and we are working through additional grant opportunities within the Community Development Block Grant umbrella; those two specifically are the Critical Infrastructure Grant and the Target of Opportunity Grant. He said that with this Resolution you are essentially approving the further application of the City to apply. He said the first-round applications are due Wednesday, June 16th, but the second rounds will open up later in the year, and we won't have to come back with this authorizing resolution again. He said he would ask for Council's support for Item #3, because membership has served us well the entire time we have been a member.

Mayor Feeney said he is happy to report that the City has hired a new Human Resources Director, Terrill Barnes, who started a week ago Monday. Mayor Feeney said Mr. Barnes had retired from the State Highway Patrol just recently with a distinguished career and has served in the Human Resources capacity at the Patrol, and that we are happy to have him on board. He said that if Council ever needed his services or just wanted to introduce themselves to please feel free to reach out to Mr. Barnes and welcome him aboard and ask him any questions they may have.

Mayor Feeney stated that the City Pool is open and that the City will be having its Fourth of July Fireworks on July 4th. He mentioned that we are still taking donations as well, and that he is so happy to be back in business.

He stated this this coming June 19th the City will be joining the community and the Ross County NAACP in celebrating Juneteenth and will be offering a proclamation for that day. He said he just wanted to let everybody know about those activities and the function at the Pour House on the 19th.

Mayor Feeney said he wanted to report briefly on the State of the City. He said that it took a little bit of a different format this year, but that he thought that it was important that the community get the opportunity to see all of the different community agencies and partners that came together in this past year to lift up our community. He said that what he witnessed this past year was incredible selflessness in those organizations and entities, and he thought it appropriate that the State of the City be presented by the community as opposed to by him, because there was a community effort this past year. He said thank you again to all of those who participated.

Mayor Feeney said that there are lots of questions about the American Rescue Plan, which is the second phase of money. He said we received the CARES Act money last year that we allocated in quick fashion. He said this allocation is a little different and more complicated than the CARES Act money. The way the money is allocated is different by state and it is different by city. He said the State of Ohio is a state that will receive money and then essentially come up with the terms for that allocation and then back out to the cities or communities within Treasury guidance. He said this round of money will have a series of different reporting to the State. He said we believe our allocation will be in the \$4.5 million range, but that he and Auditor Spetnagel have been reviewing Treasury guidance and trying to come up with what they think will be the best plan to figure out how to best allocate this money and use it for our community. He said last year we have 7-8 months to have the money spent, but this allocation is to be spent by 2024. He said we have some time to be strategic and will certainly engage City Council in that effort in thinking through current needs but also and perhaps more importantly future impact and maximizing dollars.

He said one of the biggest opportunities that he sees is taking the money we receive and using it

as matching funds and sort of having a multiplier effect. He said that we have seen great success in recent months and recent years I grant allocations and using money creatively to expand projects and he has every reason to believe that will continue. He said we have already had a very good year in terms of grant applications and receipt. Between City Engineer Dean Carroll and Transit Director Asti Powell, we have already received the Transportation Alternative Planning Grant for over \$700,000 from ODOT. We just got word last week that we were awarded the Safe Routes to School Grant, which is approximately \$270,000, and we just submitted a Small Cities Grant application in the amount of \$2 million. We have known for a long time that these opportunities are out there. We are already right around the \$1 million mark on the year, and that's not to mention some of the smaller ones that we have either received or are already participating in, so we will keep pressing and thank you to all of those involved.

Mayor Feeney said he would like to give a shout out to ODOT and District 9. He said the relationship with ODOT and District 9 is pretty incredible. The collaboration and working together on programs like this Small Cities Grant. Even though we were the submitting entity, he said he would say the lion's share of the work was completed by District 9, pulling the data, compiling it, and so we are very appreciative of that relationship and progress there.

Mayor Feeney said that we are on Wednesdays for large item pick up. If your trash day is on Wednesdays, the crews will be in your neighborhood to pick up large items this week. He said that the City has in intern right now who is working on essentially observation and potential recommendations for next year. He said he has noticed a lot of non-large items and trash in front of homes this year, which is unfortunate and disrespectful to the City and neighbors and the employees who have to pick these items up. He said unfortunately we are going to have to look at measures next year to sort of reign in some of those practices.

He said he would also like to mention that the City, as with many companies right now, is struggling for hiring and in particular seasonal help. He said we just don't have the labor that we might usually have for things like mowing and assisting with things like large item pick up. He said he appreciates the hard work that our employees are doing especially in this hot weather and that he would appreciate the community's patience with our efforts as we try to stay on top of things.

Finally, he said the RFP for the Master Plan is ready to go out. He said that Councilman Shoemaker sent him some additional consultants that we can sort of put this on the radar and circulate this RFP. He said that will actually go out tomorrow and will be posted and that it is a very exciting thing to be launched, and he looks forward to that progress.

Report of City Auditor Spetnagel:

Auditor Spetnagel stated that she did not have anything on the agenda and that, as the Mayor has already stated, they are waiting on guidance for the next round of funding. She said that as soon as they receive word on what that process is going to be they will report back.

Report of Law Director Villarreal:

Law Director Villarreal stated that they did not have a lot of items tonight, except for the fact that it has been brought to their attention that the Park Mobile company has been hacked. She said if you have that app you might want to check into that, and apparently there has been a dark web alert regarding identity information and possibly more. She said that is an important issue that people should look into if they signed up for Park Mobile. She said that have lots of pending legislation that they are currently still working on and that they are still unsuccessfully looking for another special prosecutor.

Report of President Arnold:

President Arnold stated that he would like to thank Kim Large for filling in at last Monday's special Council meeting. She came out of the Auditor's office and did a great job and he wanted to give her thanks. He said that also Mayor Feeney had provided him with a new appointment to the Downtown Development Commission. The new DDC appointee is Jade Berry, owner of the Stack, who will be completing the unexpired term for Bob Etling. She will serve from the present through 2022.

Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that Ms. Berry's appointment to the Downtown Development Commission, extending through to 2022, be approved. All members present voted "yea", and President Arnold declared the motion adopted.

President Arnold said that he wanted to comment on the State of the City. He said it was a little different, and that Mayor Feeney did a fantastic job grouping together different organizations and associations, business leaders, community leaders and putting them together on a Zoom meeting. He said that maybe it was more of a State of the Community, but it was great and the collaborative effort of all of these people put together over this last year to keep us going was phenomenal. He said thanks to all of those people that helped and everybody who helped keep our community going.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one wished to speak before Council at this meeting.

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the receipt of a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the issuance of a new permit for Gustavos International Cuisine, LLC, located at 85 North Paint Street.

There were no objections by Council to this permit application.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR

President Arnold announced that the next Council meeting will be Monday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

President Arnold announced that there are new committee assignments since the last meeting, some of which are on this meeting's agenda, for inclusion in the Journal of Council:

Community Affairs: Request for legislation to rename the alley by the Carver Community Center McIntyre Alley in honor of Marjorie McIntyre

Transit: Request for legislation to adopt the Ross County Active Transportation Plan

Finance: Request for legislation to accept the 2021 Walter Drane Codified Ordinances pages

Development: Request for legislation to authorize the Ohio Regional Development Corporation to file an application with the State Development Services Agency to participate in the 2021 CDBG Allocation Program

Development: Request for legislation to appropriate \$7,283.00 for participating in the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 33-21 appropriating \$20,091.34 from the HUD Housing Revolving Loan Fund for use toward funding CHIP Grant Ownership Rehabilitation Project was read for the third time by title only. All seven members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 33-21 adopted.

Res. No. 10-21 authorizing the Ohio Regional Development Corporation to file an application with the State of Ohio Development Services Agency on behalf of the City of Chillicothe to participate in the 2021 CDBG Community Development Allocation Program and the following Community Development Grants: Critical Infrastructure Grants and the Target of Opportunity Grant and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Lewis seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 10-21 adopted.

Res. No. 11-21 authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,283.00 as participating local funds for the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on behalf of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, for fiscal year 2021 and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Nickerson moved and Ms. Payne seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Resolution No. 11-21 adopted.

Ord. No. 34-21 designating the alley east of the Carver Community Center "McIntyre Alley" and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Ms. Nickerson moved and Mr.

Shoemaker seconded that the three-reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the rule suspended. All seven members present then voted "yea" on the item itself, and President Arnold declared Ordinance No. 34-21 adopted.

President Arnold inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Lewis moved and Ms. Nickerson seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All seven members present voted "yea" and President Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council