

Council Chambers
Regular Meeting
May 11, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Council met in regular session with all nine members present: Ames, Corcoran, Fleurima, Gray, Neal, Patrick, Proehl, Tatman and Trutschel. There were 2 media representatives and 14 other visitors present, in addition to Mayor Everson, City Law Director Rutherford, and City Auditor Feeney.

Pres. Eallonardo led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Gray moved and Mrs. Ames seconded that the Minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2015; and the Minutes of the Legislative Review Session of May 5, 2015; be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted “yea”, and Pres. Eallonardo declared the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utilities/Transit Committee:

Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #1 to appropriate \$18,500.00 for Sewer Department postage for 2015, on tonight’s Agenda for its third reading. Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #2 to appropriate \$27,133.84 to reimburse the Utilities Department for services provided to the Transit Department, on tonight’s Agenda for its third reading. Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #4 to appropriate \$150,000.00 for the purchase of new fire hydrants to replace obsolete and aging fire hydrants, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #5 to authorize the City Auditor to transfer \$325,000.00 from the General Water Cash Fund to the ARMC Water Sub-Fund in order to accurately track project costs, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. She said that she will seek to pass this item tonight. Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #6 to authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$75,000.00 to cover unexpected and unbudgeted expenses within the Transit Department for the remainder of 2015, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. She said that she will also seek to pass this item tonight.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Trutschel reported on Item #10 to appropriate \$30,000.00 for the purchase of electronic alcohol monitoring devices for use by the Chillicothe Municipal Court, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. He said that he will seek to pass this item tonight. Mr. Trutschel also expressed his thanks to the voters of the City of Chillicothe for their favorable passage of the two income tax levies last week. He said that it is now up to the city’s leaders to make things happen.

Human Resources Committee:

Ms. Gray reported on Item #3 to establish rates of pay and other economic benefits for all appointed department head positions within the city effective throughout 2015, on tonight’s Agenda for its second reading. She said that she will seek to pass this item tonight.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

Mrs. Corcoran reported on Item #7 to establish the salary schedule for part-time seasonal employees of the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Chillicothe, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. Mrs. Corcoran reported on Item #8 to appropriate \$6,442.00 from unappropriated Parks & Recreation Capital to fund the Chillicothe Tree Commission for 2015, on tonight’s Agenda for its first reading. She said that she will seek to pass both of these items

tonight due to the fact that the summer season is rapidly approaching and there is work that needs to be done.

Safety Services Committee:

Mr. Proehl reported on Item #9 to accept and appropriate \$2,500.00, constituting grant monies received from the Ohio Department of Commerce for the purchase of EMS supplies, on tonight's Agenda for its first reading. He said that he will seek to pass this item tonight.

Engineering Committee:

Mr. Tatman reported on Item #11 to add Section 351.18, Prohibition Against Parking on Front or Side Yard to the Chillicothe Codified Ordinances and also to amend Section 351.99, Penalty, on tonight's Agenda for its first reading.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

Report of Mayor Everson:

Mayor Everson stated that he also wishes to thank the voters for their decision to pass the two income tax levies on the ballot last week. He stated that he met earlier today with City Engineer Tom Day in order to update the street plan. Tomorrow, he said that he will be meeting with both the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief in order to plan for the hiring of additional safety forces personnel, and to also plan how to proceed with the Chillicothe Civil Service Commission in getting the necessary eligibility lists prepared. Mayor Everson announced that there will be an open house at the Donald M. Smith Memorial Pool on Saturday, May 30, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Later that same day, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., he said that the Budweiser Clydesdales are coming to Chillicothe. He said that they will also appear the next day at an event out at the Ross Country Fairgrounds. Mayor Everson commented on Item #7, stating that he urges passage of this item tonight. He stated that there are still two committee assignments pending before the Human Resources Committee that need to be brought forward, including one relating to part-time seasonal help in the Service Department. Mayor Everson concluded his report by stating that copies of the new replacement pages for the Chillicothe Codified Ordinances are available to the members of Council and can be picked up at the Mayors' Office.

Report of Auditor Feeney:

City Auditor Feeney stated that all of the appropriations appearing on tonight's Agenda have adequate funds. He commented on Item #5, stating that no additional money is being appropriated because this is just a transfer of funds from the General Water Cash Fund to the ARMC Water Sub-Fund. He said that this will just make certain that the funds are paid out from the correct account. Mr. Feeney commented on Item #6, stating that this is again an ordinance to just move money. He said that Interim Transit Director Mike Green and the representatives of RLS have identified some areas of weakness in the Transit Department, and that this freed up funds that had been allocated toward salaries. Mr. Feeney commented on Item #8, stating that this money was not brought forward from last year, but that the Tree Commission has some seasonal issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Feeney commented on Item #10, stating that the Chillicothe Municipal Court is the only department that can spend these particular funds. He said that they will utilize the electronic alcohol monitoring devices through the court's Probation Department. Mr. Feeney said that with respect to the new city income taxes, the employers within the city do not need to adjust their withholding percentages until after January 1, 2016. He said that he has been getting calls on this, but that none of the new taxes will be collected until after the first of the year so it does not affect any employee's withholding during the current year. Mr. Feeney said that it is still possible, however, to borrow some money against the future income tax collections in order to get started on some of the street maintenance and repair projects during the current year, if that is so desired by Council and the Administration.

Report of Law Director Rutherford:

City Law Director Rutherford reported that her office has been busy working on legislation that pertains to sidewalk café seating and banners, as well as an easement for the property located at 83 S. Walnut Street. In addition, she said that she is continuing to work on legislation pertaining to pawn brokers in the city, as well as legislation on junk cars.

Report of Pres. Eallonardo:

Pres. Eallonardo stated that she has passed out spread sheets that she prepared concerning the status of Council Committee Assignments which will allow tracking of these assignments. She said that any input from any member of Council is requested and would be appreciated.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don Rockhold of 14 Shawnee Drive spoke to Council about Hoffman Field, providing an update on a lighting project at Mary Lou Patton Park. He said that he is working with others who are seeking funds for this project, which will cost over \$100,000.00. He said that he is happy to report that a major league baseball organization has even offered to help with the funding. He said that he is here tonight because the City of Chillicothe owns the property on which the Mary Lou Patton Park is located, although the Scioto Valley Youth League is responsible for maintenance and operation of the facility. He said that the approval of Chillicothe City Council is therefore necessary to go forward with this project. He said that he would also like to see a financial contribution of perhaps as much as \$50,000.00 from the city's Parks & Recreation Levy capital funds.

Steven Truman of 152 N. Brownell Street said that he echoes the statements made by Mr. Rockhold. He said that he is very much in favor of this proposed improvement to the facility at Mary Lou Patton Park. Mr. Truman then stated that with respect to the plan proposed by City Auditor Feeney to borrow money in order to begin street maintenance and repair projects, he is against this. Mr. Truman said that he has personally had issues with debt, and that he does not see additional debt as being a good thing for the City of Chillicothe.

Terry Williams of 371 Plyley's Lane said that he is here once again to discuss the "dead horse issue". He stated that he recently attended a Finance Committee meeting, and that he was very disturbed by some of the comments made about this matter by Mr. Trutschel. He then turned directly toward Mr. Trutschel and stated that he is urging Mr. Trutschel, in the future, to refrain from using the phrase "witch hunt" when referring to any situation. Mr. Williams then proceeded to discuss at some length his perception about the origins of this particular phrase, stating that it dealt in the past with controlling an unconstrained government, and he called this a "religious slur". Mr. Williams then stated that he is disturbed that Mr. Trutschel took the blame for the situation involving the transfer of city property by Parks & Recreation Director Dave Tenor to Houser & Sons. Mr. Williams complained that after hearing from Council members for months that "we are just legislators", Mr. Trutschel now seems to be saying that Council members do perform administrative functions. Mr. Williams concluded his remarks by stating that he wants to see charges brought against a department head or a city administrator over the Houser mess.

Art Devore of 407 Nelson Drive stated that he is also here tonight to promote the baseball field lighting project. He passed out brochures on the subject to the members of Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Proehl also thanked the voters and stated that we will need to look at both the utilities including water lines and the streets in Hesswood as soon as possible.

PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on receipt of a Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of the transfer of permits from Certified Oil Corp. dba Certified 285 of 1257 Western Avenue to 7030 POE, Inc., of the same address.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Patrick announced that there will be a meeting of the Utilities Committee on Wednesday, at 4:00 p.m., in the first floor conference room of the Administration Building.

READING AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

Ord. No. 47-15 appropriating \$18,500.00 for Sewer Department postage for the remainder of 2015, and declaring an emergency was read for the third time by title only. On final passage, all members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 47-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 48-15 appropriating \$27,133.84 to reimburse the Utilities Department for services provided to the Transit Department, and declaring an emergency was read for the third time by title only. On final passage, all members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 48-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 49-15 establishing rates of pay and other economic benefits for all appointed department head positions within the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, effective January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, and declaring an emergency was read for the second time by title only. Ms. Gray moved and Mrs. Ames seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 49-15 adopted.

An Ordinance appropriating \$150,000.00 for the purchase of new fire hydrants to replace obsolete and aging fire hydrants, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only.

Ord. No. 50-15 authorizing the Auditor to transfer \$325,000.00 from the General Water Cash Fund to the ARMC Water Sub-Fund, for the purpose of accurately tracking total ARMC water project costs, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mrs. Patrick moved and Mr. Fleurima seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 50-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 51-15 authorizing the transfer of funds in the amount of \$75,000.00 to cover unexpected and unbudgeted expenses within the Transit Department for 2015, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mrs. Patrick moved and Mr. Trutschel seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 51-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 52-15 establishing the salary schedule for part-time seasonal employees of the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Chillicothe, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mrs. Corcoran moved and Mr. Trutschel seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ordinance No. 52-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 53-15 Appropriating \$6,442.00 from unappropriated Parks & Recreation Capital to fund the Chillicothe Tree Commission for 2015 was read for the first time by title only. Mrs. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Patrick seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 53-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 54-15 accepting and appropriating \$2,500.00, constituting grant monies received from the Ohio Department of Commerce, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Proehl moved and Mrs. Corcoran seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 54-15 adopted.

Ord. No. 55-15 appropriating \$30,000.00 for the purchase of electronic alcohol monitoring devices for use by the Chillicothe Municipal Court, and declaring an emergency was read for the first time by title only. Mr. Trutschel moved and Mrs. Ames seconded that the three reading rule be suspended, placing this item on final passage. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the rule suspended. All members present then voted “yea” on the item itself, and Pres. Eallonardo declared Ord. No. 55-15 adopted.

An Ordinance adding Section 351.18, Prohibition Against Parking on Front or Side Yard to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, and amending Section 351.99, Penalty, was read for the first time by title only.

Ms. Gray moved and Mr. Fleurima seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Eallonardo declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council