

Council Chambers  
Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2016  
7:30 p.m.

Council met in regular session with all nine members present: Cartee, Clay, Corcoran, Fleurima, Gray, Neal, Patrick, Proehl and Tatman. There were two media representatives and forty-five other visitors present, in addition to Mayor Feeney, City Law Director Rutherford and City Auditor Barrington.

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

Mr. Fleurima moved and Ms. Gray seconded that the minutes for the regular meeting of December 28, 2015, and the minutes for the organizational meeting of January 4, 2016, be accepted and approved, as submitted by the Clerk. All members present voted "yea" and Pres. Arnold declared the motion adopted.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Utilities/Transit Committee:**

Mrs. Patrick reported on Item #1 to amend Chapters 1105, 1173 and 1141 of the Codified Ordinances pertaining to the definition of "Homeless Shelter", and providing for the zoning thereof, on tonight's agenda for its second reading. Mrs. Patrick commented on the letter that we all received recently from the Ohio EPA, notifying the City of Chillicothe of monitoring violations reported concerning the City's Water Treatment Plant. She said that Utilities Director Richard Johnson, P.E., has met with an Ohio EPA representative to discuss the efforts that the City is following in attempting to stay in compliance, including the use of additional chlorine, as well as the use of additional amounts of other chemicals. Mrs. Patrick said that this will cost an additional \$5,000.00 per year, but that the funds are already included in the Utilities Department's budget for this year so there is no need for an additional appropriation of money at this time.

#### **Engineering Committee:**

Mr. Tatman welcomed newly appointed City Auditor James Barrington to tonight's meeting. He then noted that the Engineering Committee has received two committee assignments from Pres. Arnold. He said that the first of these is assignment #16-001, a request for legislation to change the posted speed limits on particular parts of Western Avenue, in accordance with a recommendation from the Ohio Department of Transportation, to 45 miles per hour. Next, he said, there is assignment #16-003, a request for discussion and recommendations to improve the traffic flow issues at the Guernsey Crossing/Sam's Club intersection. Mr. Tatman said that there is a need for a dedicated left turn lane on each side of North Bridge Street at this intersection for traffic exiting from the two sides of the intersection, and perhaps left turn only traffic signals as well. Also, he stated that he had checked around the Fourth Ward on Sunday to see about properties that might qualify for a land bank program. He indicated that although he did not feel that any of the properties would qualify, there were definitely a couple dozen houses that were empty and several others that were rundown. Mr. Tatman then commented on the assignment made to the Finance Committee pertaining to an appropriation of funds for the City's share of the costs for maintenance and upkeep of the Law Enforcement Complex. He said that it has been reported that the Ross County Board of Commissioners wants to consider doing upgrades to this facility. Mr. Tatman said that he believes that the City will need to stay on top of this due to the potential liability of the City for a share of the costs of any upgrades. Mr. Tatman next talked about the plans for this building, noting that somebody passed out a rough sketch of proposed uses for the available offices. He said that he would like for somebody to explore the possibility of securing a grant so that we could go forward with this plan or something like it. Finally, Mr. Tatman noted that the Clerk of Council has indicated a need for a new computer and a printer. He said that he suggests that Council do this. Pres. Arnold indicated that he has already made a committee assignment on this.

**Finance/Technology Committee:**

Mr. Proehl moved and Mrs. Patrick seconded that Council reconsider, pursuant to Rule 9, the passage of Ord. No. 131-15. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Arnold declared the motion adopted. Mr. Proehl moved and Mrs. Patrick seconded that Ord. No. 131-15 be amended by substituting the new version of the ordinance distributed to each member of Council tonight for the version adopted on December 28, 2015. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Arnold declared the motion adopted. Mr. Proehl moved and Mr. Cartee seconded that Council adopt the amended version of Ord. No. 131-15. All members present voted “yea”, and Pres. Arnold declared the amended version of Ord. No. 131-15 adopted, as follows:

**Ord. No. 131-15**, 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, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Proehl continued his report, indicating that the Finance Committee will meet tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. to discuss assignment #16-009 pertaining to the Law Enforcement Complex, followed by a meeting of the Technology Committee to discuss assignment #16-008 pertaining to the request for a new computer for the Clerk of Council. Then, he said that there will be a meeting of the Special Committee to discuss assignment #16-007 pertaining to a request for changes to the Rules of Council.

**Community Affairs Committee:**

Mr. Cartee indicated that he will be scheduling a meeting of the Community Affairs Committee to discuss assignment #16-005 pertaining to the “Angel Program”, and also assignment #16-006 pertaining to the formation of a Land Bank.

**REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:****Report of Mayor Feeney:**

Mayor Feeney wished everyone a happy new year, stating that he is pleased to see so many people in the audience tonight, although he understands that many of those are here to discuss an unfortunate topic. He then discussed the several changes made in the amended version of Ord. No. 131-15, the annual appropriations ordinance. He then stated that earlier today he and Mr. Cartee attended a promotional ceremony at the Chillicothe Fire Department, Station No. 1. He announced that CFD Station No. 3 on East Main Street and CFD Station No. 4 on University Drive will both be reopened on Monday, January 18, 2016. Mayor Feeney said that open houses will soon be scheduled at these two fire stations. In addition, he said that three new police officers will be hired this month, and that in the future the City will be setting up the new system for the dispatchers in the safety forces. Mayor Feeney announced that in connection with the City’s observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, on January 18, 2016, there will be a rally in front of the Ross County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m., followed by a march to the Chillicothe High School for additional activities. He said that everyone is invited to attend and participate. Mayor Feeney stated that he is currently in the process of putting together a team to guide the administration through the transition from the former administration. He indicated that his number 1 priority is to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Chillicothe. Mayor Feeney stated that feedback from the community and other elected officials is important to achieving this goal. Secondly, he said that he looks forward to collaboration with other community leaders and organizations and agencies. For example, he said that he met with Superintendent John Saxton of the Chillicothe City School District for breakfast on Friday, and he will be meeting with representatives of the Adena Health System for breakfast tomorrow morning. Lastly, Mayor Feeney said that his attitude is that of optimism for the City’s future, although he said that this is tempered by his awareness of the existing crime and drug problems. He stated that he feels that a community approach is needed to address those problems and find solutions.

**Report of Auditor Barrington:**

City Auditor Barrington said that he is looking forward to working for the City of Chillicothe and with Mayor Feeney. He stated that he feels that he is well suited to serve in the position of City Auditor, having majored in Economics in college, as well as being an attorney. He said that he has good people working in the Auditor’s Office that are well trained, and that within the next six months new software will be installed. Although he said it would be nice to move upstairs where there are windows, such as depicted in the sketch proposed for this building, he said that he

appreciates the help and guidance that he has received from former city auditors Tom Spetnagel, Jr. and Luke Feeney. Also, he said that he looks forward to any input from Alan Davis, who is here tonight and has previously provided his insight on city finances. City Auditor Barrington concluded his report by expressing his appreciation to Mr. Davis and to his wife, Dr. Jennifer Allen, for their contributions to the community, including their involvement in setting up the Hope Clinic.

**Report of Law Director Rutherford:**

City Law Director Rutherford welcomed Mr. Barrington as the City's new Auditor. She distributed to each member of Council a copy of her written annual report for the Law Director's Office, noting that under state law, she is required to submit such a report at the first regular meeting of Council each year. Mrs. Rutherford then proceeded to go through the substance of the report, including a detailed discussion of statistics relating to the many cases handled and other activities handled and duties performed during calendar year 2015.

**Report of Pres. Arnold:**

Pres. Arnold noted that Council needs to soon appoint somebody to the City's Income Tax Board of Review, and he requested the input of Council as to any appropriate nominee. Also, he said that there are needed appointments to fill vacancies on the Design Review Board and other boards that will have to be made in the near future. Mayor Feeney recommended that Tammy Eallonardo be reappointed to her position on the Design Review Board, with the appointment of Bruce Arnold, in the interim. He said that he does not see any conflict. Pres. Arnold then said that he is the one who distributed the copies of the sketch of proposed uses for this building, indicating that he actually made this drawing several years ago. He then proceeded to discuss what he perceived to be the benefits of the suggestions that he was making with respect to the proposed layout of this building, as depicted in the drawing.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Gavin Campos of 868 Orange Street said that he is the one who brought a number of the members of our community here tonight in order to tell the leaders of our local government that they are ready to help and that they are done with the problems caused by heroin and other substance abuse, including pills. He said that he personally started a Facebook page devoted to helping addicts and the members of their families, as well as other victims of the heroin and drug problems that exist in our community. He indicated that he did this after he suffered the loss of a brother several years ago. He stated that a lot of the people here tonight have also lost loved ones to this scourge. Mr. Campos said that they would like to see something formally set up by the city to meet regularly in order to work on the problem. He concluded by saying that he and the others here with him tonight are all concerned citizens who are ready to step up and work with local government.

Robin Moss of 1920 North Bridge Street stated that, in her opinion, the local judges need to order much stiffer sentences for those who are convicted of drug trafficking. She said that also, in her opinion, there needs to be adequate funding provided for drug treatment and rehabilitation. Mr. Cartee said that they are working on this. Ms. Moss stated that many addicts simply cannot afford the cost of rehab. She said that the drug dealers are coming here to Chillicothe from Detroit, Cincinnati, Dayton and all over, and that these dealers are flooding the local community with heroin and other illicit drugs and substances.

Tricia Fleming of 2401 Massieville Road said that she treats addiction every day, and that it is a big problem. She said that, in her opinion, there is a need for help from multiple agencies to respond to the growing crisis. She also stated that, in her opinion, some physicians are causing major problems by prescribing pain pills and other medications to patients who become addicted to them. She proceeded to describe in detail what she perceives to be the depth of the problem and what, in her opinion, is needed to address it. Ms. Fleming advised the Council that it has the community support, and that Council should be doing what it can, such as helping the local crime watch groups. She said that in order to get clean and rehabilitated, many of these victims are in need of jobs, and that many just have no hope. Ms. Fleming spoke at length about her perception of the various issues and needs presented, concluding her remarks by urging Council to get whatever information it can out to the people in the community, including resources available such as agencies and professional help.

Robin Kellough of 250 Locust Street echoed the sentiments previously stated by the other speakers, and concluded by saying that action is needed by Council and other city officials now.

Keith Richter of 343 East Water Street urged the Council to get their meetings televised again. He said that we've got a big problem that needs to be fixed. On a positive note, he said that one of the biggest leaders of a Mexican drug cartel has been captured again, and that this time it appears that he will be extradited to the United States where he will be locked up for good. He said that in his opinion, there needs to be a death penalty imposed for those who are out there in our community selling deadly drugs.

Alan Davis of 370 Braewood Drive said that he is here tonight to talk about the topic of litter. As he spoke, he referred to the document that he distributed to each member of Council titled "Litter Abatement 2015", containing information about his own personal endeavor to improve the appearance of Chillicothe by picking up litter in various areas within the city. He said that we currently have a problem with litter in our town, and that he has undertaken to pick it up in the past. Mr. Davis stated that he has now started doing this again, and that it is remarkable how much one person can get done. He said that the city can take back our city on this if others will pitch in and volunteer. Mr. Davis said that his own personal goal is to collect a total of two hundred bags this year, adding that it is amazing how much litter a single individual can collect, in a relatively short amount of time, as shown by his chart. He said that our city is just too beautiful to allow litter to ruin its appearance downtown and in other neighborhoods without doing something about it. He urged the local media, Mayor Feeney, and all other city officials to encourage people who live in our city to help by joining with him in taking some time to pick up the litter. Mr. Davis concluded his remarks by noting that since he started doing this, he has found a significant increase in discarded syringes that previously were confined to limited areas, but now seem to be everywhere.

Tiffany Howard of 38 South Paint Street said that she is an addict herself, but that she may have a solution to the drug problem. She said that in order to address the problem, there is a need to help with the operational funding for "Where Was Eye". She indicated that she is referring to "Safe Haven", located just three doors down, an organization that is willing to help people who are without insurance. Brittany Sullivan, who stood up with Ms. Howard and said that she is also an addict, stated that she agrees with everything said by Ms. Howard.

Michael Cade of 380 Meadow Lane said that he is a local pastor and that he is also the father of a woman who was recently murdered here in town, his daughter, Rebecca Cade, who was found beaten to death and clinging to a fence. Mr. Cade said that the criminals are not getting enough prison time, and when they get out they just start selling drugs again. The only thing keeping him here in Chillicothe now, he said, is the church that he is pastor of, and he invited any of the members of Council to come to his church and to speak to the congregation. He then said that the girl who had helped in the killing of his daughter only received a twelve month sentence from the local judge, and will be free to come back to our town to commit more crimes. He concluded his remarks by stating that our city is being hugely hit with drugs, but the local judges keep giving out light sentences to those convicted of drug related crimes.

A woman who identified herself as the mother of Charlotte Trego said that her daughter disappeared two years ago. She said that in her opinion, the drug Narcan should only be administered to a drug overdose victim once. After that, she said that those persons should be required to enter a rehabilitation program, in her opinion.

Stacy Peters, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, said that she has been an addict for a long time. She said that she had neglected her kids as a result of her addiction, but that now after moving away from Columbus, she has obtained a fulltime job and is in recovery. She urged the Council to do whatever it can to help people in her situation. However, she said that the truth is that an addict will not stop using until he or she is ready to stop.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Patrick said that she has passed out the annual written report of the Chillicothe Nuisance Abatement Board, as required by Section 138.04 (g) of the Chillicothe Codified Ordinances. She then proceeded to go through the information contained in the report, including much statistical information pertaining to the activities during the past year. Mrs. Patrick concluded by saying that she gives credit to Officer Pratt, who has been performing the duties of the position of Nuisance Officer, for the increase in the enforcement numbers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Clay said that, in his opinion, the committee assignment relating to the “Angel Program” is very important, as demonstrated by the information provided by all of the speakers who came here tonight. He then proceeded to briefly discuss the features of the program, stating that first of all, it seeks to remove the stigma associated with addiction. Secondly, he said that persons suffering from addiction can face no criminal charges as a result of their participation in the “Angel Program”. Lastly, he said that persons who are addicted will get treatment. Mr. Clay said that he has additional information that he will provide to anybody who is interested.

**COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR**

Pres. Arnold announced the following committee assignments for inclusion in the Journal of Council:

16-001 – Engineering – Request for legislation to change the speed limits on particular parts of Western Ave, per the recommendations of ODOT.

16-002 – Finance – Request for legislation to bring forward purchase orders and other amounts appropriated in 2015 so as to pay purchase orders in 2016.

16-003 – Engineering – Request for discussions and recommendations to improve the traffic flow issues at Guernsey Crossing/Sam’s Club intersection.

16-004 – Finance – Request for a motion to reconsider passage of Ord. No. 131-15, the City’s operating budget ordinance for 2016, and an amendment by substitution for changes to the 2016 operating budget.

16-005 – Community Affairs – Request for the Council to review and consider developing and implementing a program called the “Angel Program”, a police assisted recovery program for addicts seeking help.

16-006 – Special – Request to form a committee to work with the County in the formation and implementation of a LAND BANK and discussing the interests the City may have with qualifying properties.

16-007 – Special – Request for change to Council Rules for meeting time to be changed from 7:30 to 7:00 and no later than 7:05 after the invocation.

16-008 – Technology – Request for a new computer for the Clerk of Council.

16-009 – Finance – Request for legislation appropriating \$58,864.56 for the City’s share in the maintenance and upkeep of the Law Enforcement Complex.

Pres. Arnold announced that the Chillicothe Planning Commission will meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January at 4:30 p.m.; and the Design Review Board will meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January at 4:30 p.m. He also announced the date and time for the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board.

**READING OF LEGISLATION**

An ordinance amending Chapters 1105, 1173, and 1141 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, was read for the second time by title only.

Mr. Clay moved and Mr. Cartee seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. All members present voted “yea” and Pres. Arnold declared the motion adopted. Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council