

**CITY OF CHILLICOTHE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
February 24, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Chillicothe, Peoria County, Illinois, met in Regular Session February 24, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Donald Z. White called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance, to the Flag of the United States of America, was recited.

Chairman White directed Clerk Hurd to take roll.

Present:
Mayor Donald Z. White
City Clerk Margaret Hurd
City Treasurer B.L. Bredeman

Aldermen: Dean Braun, Barry Bredeman
Patricia Connor,
Michael Hughes, Jeff Jenkins

Also Present:
City Attorney Michael Seghetti
Office Manager Denise Passage
Economic Development Director Amanda Beadles
Police Chief Scott Mettille
Superintendent of Public Works, Shawn Sutherland

Absent:
Danny Colwell, Dennis Gould, Gary Sharp
City Engineer Ken Coulter

Chairman White declared a Quorum present.

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 10, 2020 were presented. Motion Alderman Braun, second Alderman Jenkins that the Council dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and approve the Minutes as presented.

Motion carried via voce vote.

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Clerk Hurd presented the following committee minutes:

Judicial Committee – February 12, 2020

Cemetery & Parks – February 18, 2020

Public Works – February 19, 2020

Clerk Hurd presented the City Treasurer’s report dated January 31, 2020

Clerk Hurd presented the City’s Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Document Review #70, covering the receipt and disbursements of Motor Fuel Tax Funds by the City of Chillicothe for the period beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019, as prepared by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Motion Alderman Braun, second Alderman Connor that the communications as presented by Clerk Hurd be accepted and placed on file. **Motion carried via voice vote.**

Alderman Connor reported that she was contacted by the Director of the Peoria County Recycling in regards to electronic recycling. She reported that there would be grant money available for this year and there will be a meeting in the near future to discuss.

Alderman Jenkins announced that the Cemetery & Parks committee will meet on March 3, 2020 to talk with two of the playground equipment companies that submitted qualifications.

Chairman White announced that the Finance Committee will review the preliminary budget at the March Finance/EDC meeting and will hold a budget workshop on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:00am.

Chairman White asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to address the Council. Chad Allison, Superintendent of IVC School District appeared before the Council. Mr. Allison presented an official request from the Illinois Valley Central School District No. 321 to reconsider the vote taken at the February 10, 2020 council meeting to discontinue the lawsuit against FLM Enterprises, LLC (“gravel pit”). Mr. Allison pointed out the negative economic impact the gravel pit would have on the School District and the safety concerns for the students. Mr. Allison gave out a packet with case study regarding the economic effects to each elected official for review.

Terry Bobell of 1008 N Manning Dr., appeared before the council. Mr. Bobell gave the history of obtaining his current home. He stated to the council that he never thought when he bought

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his home he would be living 5-6 blocks from a gravel pit. Mr. Bobell pleaded to the council to reconsider their vote from the February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Steve Garrison of 1316 W Elm Street appeared before the council. Mr. Garrison stated his property value will go down. He stated he felt that the communication on the issue to the public was horrible. He stated that this kind of issue should have all council members present when voting and the public should have been informed. He pleaded to the council to not give up the fight against the gravel pit.

Mr. Jim Wright, 623 Elm Street appeared before the council. He questioned where the City of Chillicothe will expand if the gravel pit is allowed. He pointed out that the only way for Chillicothe to grow is to the West. Mr. Wright urged the council to reconsider the vote.

Hannah Dutton of 1413 W Walnut Street appeared before the council. Ms. Dutton's property is adjacent (approximately 60 feet) from the proposed site of the gravel pit. She stated that she has two small children and would be concerned for their safety. She urged the council to reconsider the vote.

Chairman White responded to the public comment. He gave a brief history of the case. He stated the case started in 2010 with the Peoria County Zoning Board taking the lead on the case. The case was won locally and from there went to the appellate court in Ottawa. The appellate court heard evidence in the form of a letter from the Peoria Zoning Board that stated the land could be mined in a non-conforming use. Chairman White stated he was informed from the city's attorney Dan Schroeder after the February 10, 2020 meeting agenda went out, that the appellate court had overruled the local decision. On the following Monday he was informed that Peoria County would not be pursuing the case any further. The city attorney informed Chairman White that he needed to know right away if the city would like to continue the case before the 21-day deadline from the appellate court decision. Chairman White stated that currently there is no time left to appeal. Chairman White stated that he would like to make the best case out of a bad situation by working with the County and FLM on a reclamation plan. The reclamation plan would have two parts: What would FLM do while mining, such as barriers and what would FLM do with the ground when the mining is complete.

Terry Ruhland, partner in Sycamore Trail, appeared before the council. He stated that he too had a concern for the property value. He spoke with Joe LaHood with FLM 10 years ago. He had offered to find some common ground and would like to think that he would be open minded again.

Mr. Steve Garrison mentioned concerns to address in the reclamation plan.

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Mr. Terry Bobell question if the vote taken at the last meeting was legal. City Attorney Seghetti informed Mr. Bobell that it was an emergency decision. Mr. Bobell informed the council of his intentions to sue the City for violating the Open Meeting Act.

Motion Alderman Braun, second Alderman Bredeman that the bills as presented be paid and the payrolls and transfers be approved.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Braun, Bredeman, Connor
Hughes, Jenkins

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderman Jenkins, second Alderman Connor that the council approve an expenditure of \$5,000 payable to Wigand Disposal for the Spring 2020 City Clean Up Voucher Program. Payable from the General Fund.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Braun, Bredeman, Connor
Hughes, Jenkins

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderman Jenkins, second Alderman Bredeman that the Council hire Bruce Dudley as a Cemetery/Parks part time employee, at a starting wage of \$11.00 hourly, subject to pre-employment testing.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Braun, Bredeman, Connor
Hughes, Jenkins

Nays: None

Chairman declared motioned carried.

Motion Alderman Braun, second Alderman Jenkins that the Council authorize the city Attorney to prepare an ordinance allowing Adult use Cannabis Establishments as follows:

Two of each: Cultivation Center, Craft Grower, Cannabis Infuser, Cannabis Processor and Transporter Facility.

The following will apply:

