

**AGENDA
CHILLICOTHE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
APRIL 13, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL BY CLERK
READING OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING BY CLERK
PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY CLERK
PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSON
COUNCIL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS
ANYONE WITH BUSINESS CONCERNING CITY GOVERNMENT
PRESENTATION OF BILLS, TRANSFERS AND PAYROLLS FOR PAYMENT AND DISCUSSION**

MAYOR HUGHES

Approve – Proclamation – Motorcycle Awareness
Accept – Resignation Joe Harper – Marketing & Tourism

FINANCE COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON CRABTREE

Approve – 2026-2027 Budget

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON SHARP

Approve – Expense – Televising Sewer Lines – Ash & Cedar

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON CONNOR

Approve – HELP Loan Agreement – Gage Devries & Francy DeVries

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON BREDEMAN

Approve – Live Entertainment Request – American Legion
Approve – Special Event Request – Tri 2 Beat MS
Approve – Special Event Request – Food Truck – Little Shop of Hoarders
Approve – Purchase - K9 for Police Department
Approve – Agreement Police Employee Wellness Program with Pearce Community Center

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON GEHRIG

Refer – City Attorney to Draft Ordinance – Allow Bee Keeping
Approve – Ordinance – Amendment to Peddler's Chapter 22 Article VII

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA CLERK

To the members of Chillicothe Marketing and Tourism and the City of Chillicothe.

I have been on the Marketing and Tourism board now for over 12yrs. I have seen many great things happen in those 12yrs.

It was an honor to be asked to take a seat on this board. I started up 2 different Facebook pages for the City of Chillicothe, Discover Chillicothe and Chillicothe Downtown Thursdays. I will be removing my name and responsibilities from those pages and Amanda Beadles will continue those pages. I always felt that every business in the City deserved to be recognized without prejudice and I did my best to showcase every business and events within Chillicothe. I hope it will continue to showcase everything going forward.

With that said, it is with a heavy heart and not an easy decision that I must step down from my position. I thought after the closing of my store I would be able to spend more time planning and doing more for the City of Chillicothe. Due to the much needed, full time care that my mom needs I must consider taking the time to take care of her vs taking on other time to spend working on projects for the City of Chillicothe.

Upon leaving, my recommendation to fill this seat would possibly be Jason Horn from Cranberry Creek or Charlie Rusk from The Mill.

Chillicothe will always have a place in my heart and I will miss everyone
I hope everyone understands and I wish the best for years to come.

Sincerely
Joseph Harper
C 309-210-2457
J&W Unlimited Corporation

Effective immediately, I am resigning from my role as Mayor Pro Tem.

I did previously notify the Mayor several weeks ago of my intention to step down from this position, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve during that time.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity, and I appreciate the trust that was placed in me. However, at this time, I believe it is in the best interest of the Council and the Mayor's office for someone else to step into this role.

The position of Mayor Pro Tem requires a close alignment in leadership style, communication, and approach in order to function as it should. At this point, it is clear that there are differences in perspective that make it difficult for me to fulfill the role in the way it was intended.

I remain fully committed to serving the residents of Chillicothe as a member of the City Council, and I will continue to work collaboratively with the Mayor and my fellow Council members moving forward.

Thank you to the Mayor and the Council for the opportunity to serve in this role.

Alderman Patrick Semtner

 4-18-26

COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 13, 2026

PLEASE PRINT

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**CITY OF CHILLICOTHE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2026**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Chillicothe, Peoria County, Illinois, met in Regular Session in person April 13, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. with Mayor Michael D. Hughes presiding and with proper notice having been posted.

Mayor Hughes 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 Hughes directed Clerk Byrnes to take roll.

Present:
Mayor Michael D. Hughes
City Clerk Jill M. Byrnes
City Treasurer Andrea Bredeman

Alderspersons Present:
Barry Bredeman, Brett Cantwell,
Patricia Westerman-Connor, Michael Crabtree,
Courtney Gehrig, Sandra Levell,
Patrick Semtner, Gary Sharp

Also Present:
City Attorney Kevin Day
Attorney Taylor Cascia
Police Chief Jeremy Cooper
Office Manager Denise Passage
Assistant Office Manager Chelsea White
Economic Development Director Amanda Beadles
Superintendent of Public Works Shawn Sutherland

Chairman Hughes declared a Quorum present

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The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on March 23, 2026 were presented. Motion Alderperson Semtner, second Alderperson Sharp, that the Council dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the March 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting and approve the Minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE CLERK:

Clerk Byrnes presented the following Committee and Commission Minutes:

- 1. Public Safety Committee – 3/3/2026**
- 2. Shademakers Committee – 3/17/2026**
- 3. Finance Committee/Budget Workshop – 3/21/2026**
- 4. Public Works Committee – 4/8/2026**

Communications by the Clerk:

- 1. City Treasurer's Report – 02/2026, 3/2026**
- 2. City Collector's Report – 4/2026**
- 3. City Budget Report – 3/2026**

I am in receipt of a resignation letter dated 4/1/2026 which reads:

To the members of Chillicothe Marketing & Tourism and the City of Chillicothe.

I have been on the Marketing & Tourism board now for over 12 years. I have seen many great things happen in those 12 years. It was an honor to be asked to take a seat on this board. I started up 2 different Facebook pages for the City of Chillicothe, Discover Chillicothe and Chillicothe Downtown Thursdays. I will be removing my name and responsibilities from these pages and Amanda Beadles will continue those pages. I always felt that every business in the City deserved to be recognized without prejudice and I did my best to showcase every business and events within Chillicothe. I hope it will continue to showcase everything going forward. With that said, it is with a heavy heart and not an easy decision that I must step down from my position. I thought after the closing of my store I would be able to spend more time planning and doing more for the City of Chillicothe. Due to the much needed, full time care that my mom needs I must consider taking the time to take care of her vs taking on other time to spend working on projects for the City of Chillicothe. Upon leaving, my recommendation to fill this seat would possibly be Jason Horn from Cranberry Creek or

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Charlie Rusk from The Mill. Chillicothe will always have a place in my heart and I will miss everyone. I hope everyone understands and I wish the best for years to come.

Sincerely,

Joseph Harper (See attached)

A follow-up reminder to all Elected Officials and Committee Members the deadline for completion of your Statement of Economic Interest is May 1, 2026 or you will be subject to a fine.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the petitions and communications as presented by Clerk Byrnes be accepted and placed on file.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS:

Mayor Hughes reported to the Council he had met with Senator Ryan Spain, Terry Ruhland, Mike Krost, Eric Miller and Jim Fennell regarding the viaduct. Mayor Hughes stated the meeting went well and talks are progressing.

Alderperson Semtner informed the Council he is resigning as Mayor Pro Tem effective immediately. (See attached statement). Clerk Byrnes informed Alderperson Semtner his statement will be added to the 4/27/2026 Council agenda.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:

Alderperson Crabtree thanked everyone involved for their hard work and preparation in advance of the 3/21/2026 Budget Session Workshop.

ANYONE WITH BUSINESS CONCERNING CITY GOVERNMENT:

Luke Harvey, 13620 Ashton Pkwy, addressed the Council in support of bee keeping and asked the Council to consider similar municipal ordinance guidelines regarding bee keeping before drafting the City of Chillicothe ordinance to adopt bee keeping.

Amber Rutledge, 412 Fulton Street, Hayworth, IL., informed the Council she is employed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a bee keeping inspector, and is in support of bee keeping within the City of Chillicothe. She explained the benefits and educational opportunities of bee keeping for school children, adults, and veterans.

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

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Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

MAYOR HUGHES:

Motion Alderperson Crabtree, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Mayoral Proclamation, proclaiming the Month of May, Motorcycle Awareness Month in the City of Chillicothe.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

Motion Alderperson Levell, second Alderperson Connor, that the Council accept the resignation from Joseph Harper from the Marketing & Tourism Commission effective immediately, and thank him for his service.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Crabtree, second Alderperson Levell, that the Council approve the General Fund, Road & Bridge Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, TIF Fund and the Miscellaneous Funds Budgets for the City's Fiscal Year commencing May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2027, as presented.

Discussion: Alderperson Bredeman announced that the Public Safety Committee would like to add the following to the 26-27 FY Budget :

1. Police Protection Fund – Police Dog \$25,000.00, Police Forfeiture Funds will be transferred to Police Protection Fund to pay for the Police K9.

Alderperson Sharp announced the Public Works Committee would like to add the following to the 26-27 FY Budget:

1. Water Sewer Fund Priority One Project – Lead Service Phase 2 - \$50,000.00

2. Water Sewer Fund Operational Expense Computer Licensing - \$4,200.00

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3. Water Sewer Fund Operational Expense Professional Service - \$3,000.00 (Digitize Water Maps)

Aldersperson Crabtree amended his motion to include the above expenses.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Aldersperson Sharp announced that he would like to withdraw agenda item:

Approve – Expense – Televising Sewer Lines – Ash & Cedar from tonight’s meeting agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Motion Aldersperson Connor, second Aldersperson Sharp, that the Council approve the HELP loan agreement between the City of Chillicothe and Francy DeVries/Gage DeVries in the amount of \$105,000.00 for the purchase of Marge’s Tavern located at 930 N. Second Street and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to take reasonable and prudent actions to execute the agreement.

Discussion: Attorney Day stated the loan is secured via mortgage, promissory note and personal guarantees as needed.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Motion Aldersperson Bredeman, second Aldersperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Request for Live Entertainment in the outdoor pavilion, as submitted by the American Legion, on April 15th & 29th, 2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., for “Open Mic Night”.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

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Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Special Event Request submitted by Leann Stickel, for the use of Second Street from Shore Acres to Walnut Street, on June 13, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to noon for the "Tri 2 Beat MS Kids Triathlon".

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Special Event Request submitted by Cindy Scime, Little Shop of Hoarders for the use of parking spaces on Second Street in front of their store on April 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a food truck to celebrate their "10th Anniversary".

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Levell, that the Council approve an expenditure of \$12,000.00 payable to Southern Police K9 Inc. for the purchase of a K9 dog and training. Payable from the Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Sementner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Crabtree, that the Council approve the agreement between the City of Chillicothe and Pearce Community Center for an employee wellness agreement for the Police Department and authorize the Mayor and Police Chief to take reasonable and prudent actions necessary to execute said agreement.

Note: Estimated annual cost \$1,764.00. The City will cover 25% of a single or family membership. Payable from the Police Protection Fund.

Discussion: Chief Cooper informed the Council the intent is to encourage the Police Department to utilize Pearce facilities, they will be required to attend Pearce a minimum of 2 times weekly, a printout will be provided to Chief Cooper who will track their attendance. The \$100.00 initiation fee will be paid by the officer.

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Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Gehrig, second Alderperson Connor, that the Council authorize the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to allow bee keeping within the corporate boundaries of the City of Chillicothe.

Roll Call Vote was:

Ayes: Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: Bredeman

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Gehrig, second Alderperson Crabtree, that the Council approve Ordinance No. 26-04-05, an ordinance amending Chapter 22 Article VII, Peddlers.

Discussion: City Attorney Day explained that per the Judicial Committee the fee for a Peddler's License, per solicitor will be increased from \$250.00 to \$300.00 and the hours reduced to 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote was:

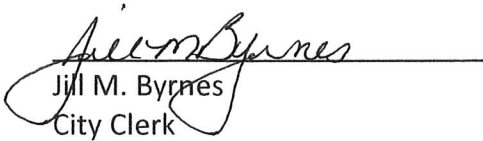
Ayes: Bredeman, Cantwell, Connor, Crabtree,
Gehrig, Levell, Semtner, Sharp

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Levell, second Alderperson Crabtree, that the meeting adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Hughes declared the meeting adjourned.


Jill M. Byrnes
City Clerk