

SECOND AMENDED AGENDA
CHILLICOTHE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
August 24, 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

- Guidelines for Public Participation

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSON

- Statement(s) - PFAS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

ANYONE WITH BUSINESS CONCERNING CITY GOVERNMENT

PRESENTATION OF BILLS, TRANSFERS AND PAYROLLS FOR PAYMENT AND DISCUSSION

MAYOR HUGHES

Update – City Engineer

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON SHARP

Approve - Sidewalk Program Application

Approve - MFT funds for striping for parking lots

Approve - Tri-County Regional Planning Commission invoice

Approve - Road and Bridge Priority One Project - Dump Truck

Approve - Water and Sewer Priority One Projects for the Dump Truck

Approve - Purchase of Dump Truck from Koenig Body

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON CONNOR

Approve - Façade - Peggy Says Sew

Approve - 1249 Fourth Street Property – Advertise

Approve - REsimpifi Renewal Invoice

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON BREDEMAN

Approve – Live Entertainment Request: American Legion

Approve – Special Event – Zombie Walk

Approve – Special Event – Jeff Smith: Kamaela's Kreamery at Riversound Park

Approve – Generator Maintenance Agreement – Altorfer

Approve – Chillicothe –Assumption Agreement - Peoria ECC

CEMETERY & PARKS COMMITTEE – ALDERPERSON LEVELL

Approve –General Fund Priority One Project– Parks – Drinking Fountain

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA CLERK

**CITY OF CHILLICOTHE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2026**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Chillicothe, Peoria County, Illinois, met in Regular Session in person August 24, 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 Treasurer Andrea Bredeman
City Clerk Jill M. Byrnes

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
Officer Douglas Hahn
City Engineer Josh Harken
Office Manager Denise Passage
Assistant Office Manager Chelsea White
Economic Development Director Amanda Beadles
Superintendent of Public Works Shawn Sutherland

Others Absent: Police Chief Jeremy Cooper

Chairman Hughes declared a Quorum present

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The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on August 10, 2026 were presented. Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Sharp, that the Council dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the August 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting and approve the Minutes as presented.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE CLERK:

Clerk Byrnes presented the following Committee and Commission Minutes:

- 1. Marketing & Tourism Commission – 07/06/2026, 08/03/2026**
- 2. Public Safety Committee – 07/07/2026**
- 3. Finance Committee – 08/12/2026, 08/17/2026**
- 4. Economic Development Committee – 08/17/2026**
- 5. Cemetery & Parks Committee – 08/18/2026**
- 6. Public Works Committee – 08/19/2026**

Communications by the Clerk:

- 1. 1st Quarter Budget Review**

I am in receipt of a resignation letter which reads:

Dear Mayor Hughes and Alderpersons,

It is with a heavy heart that I submit my resignation as alderperson for the City of Chillicothe effective September 1, 2026. Due to conflicting family and work commitments, I cannot fully commit to my duties as alderperson and I feel I would be doing a disservice to our constituents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Courtney Gehrig, Alderperson Ward 2

There was a bid letting held on Tuesday 8/18/2026 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall for the water service line replacements on Hazel & Louise Streets. One bid was received: Walker Excavating, Peoria IL., in the amount of \$500,724.74

Notice of Municipal Election – 2027: Persons interested in the positions of:

Alderperson Ward #1 – 2 yr. term

Alderperson Ward #1 – 4 yr. term

Alderperson Ward #2 – 4 yr. term

Alderperson Ward #3 – 4 yr. term

Alderperson Ward #4 – 4 yr. term

Current individuals serving on the City Council that will need to run for re-election are:

Alderpersons Cantwell, Crabtree, Levell, & Semtner.

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Election packets are available online at <http://www.cityofchillicotheil.org> and for pickup at the City of Chillicothe City Clerk's Office, 908 N. Second Street between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, beginning Tuesday August 25, 2026. Election Day is April 6, 2027.

Guidelines for Public participation:

Section 2-73 of the City Code states, "The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the City Council."

Section 2-99 of the City Code as it applies to Public Participation in Council meetings establishes the following rules:

- 1) An individual wishing to address Council is asked to sign up on a form prior to the start of the meeting.
- 2) Each individual shall speak only when recognized by the chair and shall give his or her name.
- 3) All remarks shall be addressed to the Council or Committee as a whole and not to any individual.
- 4) No questions may be asked except through the chair.
- 5) Speakers shall be limited to three minutes each unless granted time by the chair.
- 6) No speaker or any other individual other than the chair shall interrupt any other speaker or individual.
- 7) The chair may interrupt an individual only to enforce these rules or to maintain order.
- 8) Individuals are to be brief and concise in making their remarks and should address topics directly relevant to business of the meeting.
- 9) If ruled out of order and found by the chair to be out of order, an individual may be barred from further remarks at the meeting and barred from further attendance at that meeting. This ruling of the chair can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Council or Committee members present.
- 10) Discussion between speakers and members of the audience is not permitted.
- 11) Neither the chair nor any Council member may be required to answer any questions posed or otherwise respond to any public comment.
- 12) After the individual has finished speaking, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment, except at the discretion of the chair.

****While the following statement is not part of the City Code, to further assist in public participation when addressing the Council we kindly ask that you step to the microphone before stating your name.**

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

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

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PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS:

Mayor Hughes read a statement regarding the recent water testing results. (See attached).

City Engineer Josh Harken reported to the Council that after discussing the recent water testing results with Superintendent Sutherland the well in question was deactivated, additional testing was performed, and results are pending.

Aldersperson Semtner read a prepared statement. (See attached)

Aldersperson Crabtree informed the Council that the Finance Committee will be investigating the possible use of mass notification systems such as Civic Plus or Code Red and costs associated with each service to better communicate with the public.

Superintendent Sutherland informed the Council that all water testing requirements for the City are ordered and regulated by the IEPA.

Aldersperson Sharp reported to the Council that a neighbor of his recently had knee surgery and was walking near Santa Fe Park as part of his rehabilitation and was knocked to the ground by a child on an electric scooter.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:

None

ANYONE WITH BUSINESS CONCERNING CITY GOVERNMENT:

Kurt Stepping, 14127 Ivy Lake Road, addressed the Council stating he has 41 years' experience in water testing primarily drinking and waste water. Mr. Stepping spoke to the PFAS testing results and the importance of understating the units as listed on the report, nanograms, (equal to 1 trillion) per liter. Mr. Stepping emphasized that elevated PFAS levels can result from clothing, gortex, rainproof gear, deodorant, hairspray, perfume and skin care products.

Michelle Brian, 920 Wilmot, addressed the Council with concerns of a document from IEPA inspections dated September 2025 regarding the storm water management program. Ms. Brian stated there is valuable information about the Clean Water Act in that document and after reading it noticed 7 violations listed on pages 6 & 7, asking if there is a connection to the listed violations and the recent IEPA letter regarding PFAS levels. Finally Ms. Brian is questioning if any Council member reviews the results of testing after receiving them from Superintendent Sutherland.

Rebecca Hawkins, 301 W. Maple, addressed the Council with a suggestion of when communicating with the public, issue a letter to the community within the 5 day time frame, or post on the website an assurance/explanation of how the testing was performed, what the results mean in simple language and what are the proposed solutions regarding the drinking water supply.

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

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: **None**

Chairman declared motion carried.

MAYOR HUGHES:

Current Fehr Graham Engineer Josh Harken will be leaving Fehr Graham, resulting in him no longer being the acting City Engineer. We are currently working with Fehr Graham to welcome a new City Engineer. City Engineer Harken thanked the Mayor and Council, stated his gratitude for the opportunity to work with them and wished them well moving forward.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Bredeman, that the Council approve the following application for the 2026 Sidewalk Program:

Leslie Elsasser 633 Wilmot \$2,000.00

Payable from Road & Bridge Fund

Program balance \$16,072.00

8/4 approval \$ 2,000.00

Balance \$14,072.00

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: **None**

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Levell, that the Council approve an expenditure with the projected cost not to exceed \$3,100.00 for the layout and paint of 3,870' of 4" line and 7 ADA Symbols and a one-time fee to stripe two city owned parking lots (between Walnut St. and Chestnut St. and Second St. and Third St.) from Stephens Striping and Signs. Payable from MFT Funds.

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Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Bredeman, that the Council approve the Tri-County Planning Commission Joint Funding Agreement for FY27 with an annual fee of \$3,468.70 and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to take reasonable and prudent actions necessary to execute any documents regarding the Joint Funding Agreement. Payable from General Fund & Road & Bridge Fund.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Levell, that the Council approve the Water Department and Sewer Department Priority One Project for the Dump Truck in the amount of \$75,000.00 each as an approved project.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Road & Bridge Priority One Project, for the Dump Truck in the amount of \$150,000.00 as an approved project.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

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Motion Alderperson Sharp, second Alderperson Levell, that the Council approve the purchase of a 2027 International Dump Truck with plow/spreader from Koenig Body in the amount of \$217,281.00. Payable as follows:

Road & Bridge Fund \$150,000.00

Water/Sewer Fund (Water) \$ 33,640.50

Water/Sewer Fund (Sewer) \$ 33,640.50

Note: This is a state bid price.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: **None**

Chairman declared motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Connor, second Alderperson Crabtree, that the Council approve the Façade application for the Façade Grant Program for Peggy Says Sew at 1040 N. Second St. up to the amount of \$3,000.00, and authorize payout once project is complete, receipts submitted and work verified by the Economic Development Director.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: **None**

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Connor, second Alderperson Levell, that City Council refer to the City Attorney the sale and advertisement of sale for the surplus public real estate located at 1249 Fourth Street and authorize and direct the City Attorney to coordinate with Economic Development Director Beadles and City staff to obtain the appraisal, information, and guidance needed to prepare a resolution for the sale of said surplus public property by a licensed commercial realtor.

Note: The process, appraisal information, realtor information and fees will be presented to the Economic Development Committee and the resolution will be presented to City Council for approval.

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Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Connor, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the one-year agreement between REsimplifi and the City in the amount of \$2,140.00 for a commercial real estate listing platform and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to take reasonable and prudent actions necessary to execute any documents regarding the agreement. Payable for General Fund 01-61-553.02 Website.

Note: Agreement is for \$2,140.00 for the period of September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Request for Live Entertainment in their outdoor pavilion as submitted by the American Legion as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Band</u>
Sept 13, 2026	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Duo-Rhythm Ace
Sept 20, 2026	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	The Killer Riffs
Sept 26, 2026	7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	In The Middle
Sept 27, 2026	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Kasino

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Crabtree, that the Council approve the Special Event Request held on public property, subject to receipt of proof of insurance,

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submitted by Heather Murphy for the use of City Park and Second St. with street closings Cedar St. to Walnut St. on Second St. on October 24, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. for the “Nightmare on Second Street Zombie Walk”.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Gehrig, that the Council approve the Special Event Request, subject to receipt of proof of insurance, held on public property, submitted by Jeff Smith for the use of Riversound Park on September 16, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for the “Kamaela’s Creamery at Riversound Park” sponsored by Jeff Smith, Realtor.

Motion Carried Via Voce vote.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Sharp, that the Council approve the three-year generator maintenance agreement between the City of Chillicothe and Altorfer with the fee of \$2,509.00 per year and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to take reasonable and prudent actions necessary to execute any documents regarding the yearly generator maintenance agreement. Payable from General Fund – Police.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Sharp, that the Council approve the CAD/RMS System Onboarding and Assumption Agreement with Peoria ECC, with a cost for the first year in the amount of \$19,164.86 and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to take reasonable and prudent actions necessary to execute any documents regarding this agreement. Payable from the Police Protection Fund.

Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

CEMETERY & PARKS COMMITTEE:

Motion Alderperson Levell, second Alderperson Sharp, that the Council approve the General Fund Park Department Priority One Project – Drinking Fountain in the amount of \$10,000.00 as an approved project.

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Roll Call Vote was:

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

Nays: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

Motion Alderperson Bredeman, second Alderperson Sharp, that the meeting adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Hughes declared the meeting adjourned.


Jill M. Byrnes
City Clerk

1. I want residents to know that City staff and elected officials have heard and understand the concerns surrounding the recent water-testing results.
2. We know water quality and public health are important, because we live here too. We drink the same water, and our families, friends, and neighbors all depend on it.
3. The City will continue working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, our engineers, and other qualified experts to follow through on appropriate testing and carefully evaluate available treatment options, costs, and potential funding opportunities.
4. As additional information becomes available, we are committed to sharing it promptly and transparently. As I believe you'll hear tonight, we will also evaluate the way we communicate information to our citizens.
5. The health and safety of Chillicothe residents will remain our highest priority.
6. I will now turn it over to our City Engineer for a brief comment.

* After City Engineer comments, turn it over to alderpersons

* After alderperson comments, move on to Committee report agenda item

I would like to propose that the City establish a formal policy for communicating important regulatory and public-health information to our residents.

Information involving drinking water, public health, or public safety should be communicated clearly, directly, promptly, and in language that residents can easily understand. The mayor and City Council should also be properly informed when significant information is received and when decisions are made about communicating it to the public.

For that reason, I am going to refer this matter to the Judicial Committee and ask the committee to develop a formal City policy governing regulatory and public-health communications.

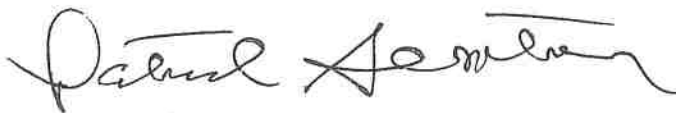
The policy should establish who must be notified when the City receives important information; who is responsible for reviewing and approving the communication plan; when the mayor, council members, city attorney, department heads, certified water operator, and other appropriate professionals should be involved; and which methods should be used to communicate with residents.

Agency approval and legal compliance are essential, but our responsibility should also include making every reasonable effort to ensure that residents actually receive and understand information that may affect their health, safety, or confidence in City services.

A written policy will provide clear direction to City employees, help protect the City, keep elected officials properly informed, and promote consistent, timely, and understandable communication with the public.

Most importantly, this policy will strengthen public confidence and help ensure that the City is prepared to communicate effectively whenever an important regulatory, public-health, or public-safety matter arises.

After the Judicial Committee reviews the matter and receives guidance from the city attorney and appropriate department professionals, a proposed policy will be brought before the full City Council for discussion and possible approval.


08-24-25



City Council
August 24, 2026

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