

July 20, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual work session on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at St. Peter Episcopal Church, 541 Second Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter and Emergency Ohio Sub House Bill 197.

Commission President Cody Caldwell called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Cody C. Caldwell, President (remote access)
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member (in person)
 T. Beau Sang, Member (remote access)

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)	
Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)	
Scott Cline, Columbia Gas (in person)	
Erica Chronaberry, Columbia Gas (remote access)	
Ronnie Lynch (in person)	Beth Lozier (in person)
Karen McCarty (remote access)	Shawn Layne (in person)
Loretta Layne (in person)	Kay Dey (in person)
Dean Evans (in person)	Fran McEwen (in person)
Nancy Tawney (in person)	Bill Jenkins (in person)
Robbie Jenkins (in person)	Travis Dennie (in person)
Jennifer Walker (in person)	

The City Manager introduced Mr. Scott Cline, Columbia Gas' Project Manager for Southeastern Ohio. Mr. Cline gave an overview of the project and outlined some of the challenges that they are facing. The project involves replacement of the old steel lines with new, higher pressure plastic lines. This requires installation of a new regulator, which reduces pressure before it reaches appliances. The preferred method for handling this is to install the regulator, shut off valve, and meter outside. As an alternative, the regulator and shut off valve can be installed inside and meter outside. If there is no other option, everything can go inside with a 1" vent line. The new lines will tie back into existing lines inside the structures. Columbia Gas will check for leaks and will work with individual property owners to address any issues that arise. Nelsonville recently went through this process with no issues.

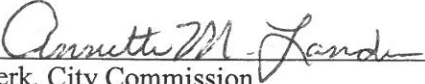
Many of our buildings cannot support access to the backside of the building. Columbia Gas will restore sidewalks to original condition or better. They will be sending a coordinator around to all of the businesses in the downtown, historic area to sit down and work out where and how each will be done. Residential structures were discussed with residents at a separate public hearing. Columbia Gas has been working with them on-site. At an earlier meeting with business owners, aesthetics were discussed, but with some of the work now done on Court Street, we can now see what an actual installation looks like. Due to many complaints, the project was halted there to allow discussion of concerns at this public hearing.

There followed an extended period of public input. Many attending expressed displeasure with the aesthetics of the Court Street installations. Mr. Sang asked whether the use of vaults could remedy some of the issues. Mr. Cline explained that vaults were not practical due to issues of greater expense at the outset as well as ongoing maintenance, regulations and guidelines and safety issues with corrosion of the metal pipes in the wet environment. Because of these concerns, no one currently uses vaults in Ohio.

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Several of the business owners and residents present asked questions related to their own situations, which Mr. Cline either immediately answered or promised to work with them to resolve. Mr. Lozier asked Mr. Cline to keep the City informed of such conflicts so we can aid in addressing them. Ms. Tawney asked for some cones to place around the meter outside her business and about liability for accidents, but this was beyond the scope of anyone present to address.

There being no other questions or further business to come before the Commission, the work session was adjourned.


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission