

January 22, 2019

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 6 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Michael Fulks called the meeting to order. Mr. Wallis gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Michael C. Fulks, President  
 Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President  
 Cody C. Caldwell, Member  
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member  
 Beau Sang, Member

Others attending were:

M. Eugene Greene, City Manager  
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor  
 Michelle Clonch, Assistant Auditor/Clerk  
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune  
 Ronnie Lynch                      Randy Breech                      Michael W. Brown

Commission received the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting prior to this meeting. Mr. Caldwell asked to clarify that his recusal from discussion of Holzer was due to his employment, not due to family ties. This will be corrected in the minutes. There being no other corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Street Maintenance Department has used over 11 tons of cold mix on the streets so far this winter. They have been removing Christmas banners from the light poles and installing new water and sewer taps.
- We have a contractor on Spruce Street Extension to level the surplus dirt until we can find funding to raise the bridge.
- The Streets Superintendent and CI Thornburg have been working on the dead water meter list.
- Salt crews were out treating our streets over the weekend.
- One of our fire hydrants on Route 7 South was knocked over during the weekend and will need to be replaced.
- Our Code & Health Team has several buildings around town on the demo list. Mr. Bostic has sent out property maintenance violation letters to property owners, which is leading to an increase in interest in tearing down these old buildings.
- We are expecting another full summer in the City Park. Reservations for events are coming in earlier this year.
- Mr. Null has been testing the flow on the fire hydrants in the Eastern Avenue area.
- Mr. Greene requested executive session for legal matters.

Ms. Clonch presented the following invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$4,518.45 from Ohio BWC for monthly premium. Invoice: 12/28/18. PO: 1/2/19.
- \$5,085.72 from AEP for Dec. street lights. Invoice: 12/31/18. PO: 1/2/19.
- \$5,000.00 from Henschen & Associates for Court annual software fees. Inv: 1/1/19. PO: 1/2/19.
- \$22,604.40 from Waste Management for Dec. refuse pick-up. Invoice: 1/1/19. PO: 1/2/19.
- \$5,035.50 from Gallia Co. Sheriff for share on Cellbrite system. Invoice: 1/10/19. PO: 1/16/19.
- \$28,553.04 from Civica CMI for annual fees. Invoice: 1/2/19. PO: 1/18/19.

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Following a short discussion of the Cellbrite system, Mr. Wallis made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor requested executive session for legal matters.

Mr. Gallagher asked if there was any new information on getting quotes for safety glass. Mr. Greene answered that he talked to A1 Glass today about this and they are going to get back with him.

Mr. Sang asked if there had been any more communication with Holzer. Mr. Greene said that there has been no further response since the e-mail he sent, which he provided to the Commissioners.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2019-03 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MORROW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE HOUSING OF PRISONERS**. Mr. Caldwell made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2019-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER NO. 925.07(b),(1)(A) AND (2)(A), SEWERS, RATES, SEWER SERVICE CHARGES (INSIDE CITY AND OUTSIDE CITY), OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Wallis made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Caldwell. In discussion, Mr. Caldwell asked how our rates compare to other places. Mr. Greene said that our rates seem competitive with others in the area. He explained that this ordinance would raise the sewer rates by an additional 1% (from 3% to 4%) over the next two years to address a growing shortage in that fund. At the same time, the Commission is asked to suspend the automatic increase in water rates for this year and next to soften the impact of the sewer rate increase. Mr. Greene and Mr. Caldwell both recommended re-visiting this issue each year. Mr. Wallis explained that the automatic 3% increase was enacted originally to avoid having to go for large, infrequent increases. It serves the public better to have small, annual increases. The Water Fund is in fine shape at this point and can forego a couple of years of increases. Everyone seemed in agreement that it would be good practice to re-visit the issue around this time. Upon voice vote call to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Wallis made a motion to enter executive session for legal matters, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call to enter executive session for legal matters, all votes were yes. President Fulks announced that there would be no business following executive session. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to special session. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Clerk, City Commission

  
President, City Commission