

February 27, 2014

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Steven Wallis called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Steven E. Wallis, President
James Jay Cremeens, Vice-President
Michael W. Brown, Member
Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member

Others attending were:
Randall J. Finney, City Manager
Michelle Tate, Assistant City Auditor/Clerk

Mr. Cremeens made a motion to reconvene at Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC), seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. The meeting at GDC was a public meeting (open session) with the Gallia County Commissioners, State Representative Ryan Smith, GDC personnel, and various community members. City officials attending were President Wallis, Mr. Cremeens, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Gallagher.

DODD Deputy Directors Ginnie Whisman and Zach Haughawout led the discussion. They explained that the goal of the layoffs and other changes at the development center was to be in compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision, enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice. The most recent layoff put GDC more in line with the patient to employee ratios of other state-run facilities.

The County Commissioners explained the social impact of moving residents out into the general population, as well as the financial impact to local governments. They expressed concern over the quality of care that those affected individuals would receive compared to what they enjoyed at GDC. The DODD representatives affirmed that they would continue to work with and monitor the private companies involved to assure that proper care is provided.

Commissioners questioned what would become of the vacant buildings. Ms. Whisman answered that they were paid for by state bonds and could only be used by non-profit entities. Any appropriate ideas for usage may be presented for the DODD's consideration.

Upon completion of the meeting at GDC, Commission reconvened at the Gallipolis Municipal Building at 1 p.m. President Wallis opened a discussion of the budget line item for Assistant Fire Chief, which had been postponed for possible later discussion during the budget sessions. Mr. Wallis proposed converting these positions to unpaid positions, with Mr. Cremeens concurring. The City Manager favored keeping the positions in the budget as paid positions.

Mr. Cremeens made a motion to remove the funding for the Assistant Fire Chief positions from the budget, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, Mr. Gallagher abstained. All other votes were yes. Mr. Finney asked to go on record as opposing elimination of pay for these positions.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned.


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission