

March 4, 2014

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 7:00 p.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
W. Matthew Johnson, Member

Others attending were:

Randall J. Finney, City Manager
Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor
Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
Keith Elliott Ronnie Lynch Mary Lee Marchi
Joy Elliott Clinton Patterson Marvin Vanderberg

Commissioners received the minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

President Wallis opened the Public Hearing on the 2014 Proposed Budget. Each member of the audience was provided with summary sheets of the estimated revenues and expenditures, as well as the schedule of Capital Expenditures and Transfers and Advances. The City Manager went over major items from the budget, including capital expenditures and personnel expenses. He displayed spreadsheets of capital items and major projects. He also spoke of the increased cost of health insurance due to the Affordable Care Act and to increased employee enrollment on our policy. Mr. Cremeens asked if the City should consider discontinuing medical insurance coverage and compensating employees for going onto the health care exchanges. Mr. Finney answered that it would be a complicated decision, requiring the guidance of an insurance professional to fully evaluate the cost/benefit of such an action. He said that he would look into the matter. Following his presentation, the hearing was opened up for questions from the floor. There were no questions.

During *Privilege of Floor*, Gallipolis Fire Chief Keith Elliott commended the City Manager for consistently coming out to fire scenes at all times and in all weather, lending unprecedented support and service to the firefighters in such ways as providing food and/or water or pitching in to help move equipment. He also commented that two police officers saved the life of a woman in a structure fire last night. They will be up for formal commendation soon, but he wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the incident.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- On the agenda for this evening is an ordinance to accept an additional \$7,800 from the Moving Ohio Forward Grant program.
- The Gallipolis Daily Tribune will be publishing another Community Pride special edition of the newspaper. The City participated in the last edition. Mr. Finney asked if the Commissioners wanted to do so again this year. After a short discussion, they decided not to participate this year.
- A local artists' group has inquired about setting up in the City Park on First Avenue on Saturdays in conjunction with the Farmers' Market. They would do portraits and pottery work. The Farmers' Market is interested in having them participate. In discussion, there were no objections.

- A local group would like to offer an open gym on Wednesday evenings at Gallia Academy High School. They are asking if the City Recreation Department could cover them for insurance. It would require no overtime for our employees. The City Solicitor advised that waivers should be required. Mr. Finney added that no one would be allowed to be present who was not a participant in the program.
- On May 23rd, Ohio State Representative Ryan Smith would like to bring local representatives to Columbus to meet with legislators to discuss issues of local concern. The Commissioners were very interested in participating.
- Mr. Finney reported on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project sources of funding and cost of the upgrades. He augmented his presentation with pictures taken at the worksite.
- The utility billing department is scheduled to be closed on March 11th for software upgrade and an initial day of training. Training is to continue on Wednesday and Thursday, but the offices will be open on both of those days. Customers have been alerted about the closure.
- OVRDC will be having their banquet on March 21st at 11 a.m. The cost of the meal is \$25. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.
- The Park Board met today to discuss rides in the City Park. They would like to limit heavy trucks from the park grounds. Mr. Finney has now learned that the ride companies may not want to come this year anyway, due to the shorter (3-day) length of the festival. President Wallis asked about low spots in the park, which were discussed last year after the drainage problems. Mr. Finney agreed that the City should look into that issue.
- The Safety Coordinator, Ed Swisher, has been conducting safety trainings with the employees, including such issues as tornado safety, confined spaces, and blood borne pathogens.
- The portion of the water line along State Route 160 is to be moved sometime in March. Mr. Swisher has been working on securing the necessary easements. This is in conjunction with the State's repair of a slip on that section of the road.
- Following the meeting this evening, Mr. Finney will be traveling to Columbus to attend the economic development conference from Wednesday to Friday.

The City Auditor presented the following invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$17,668 from CMI for annual software fees. Invoice date: 11/18/13. P.O. date: 1/30/14.
- \$14,135.60 from CT Consultants for Headworks. Invoice date: 11/27/13. P.O. date: 2/11/14.
- \$97,650 from CT Consultants for WWTP Upgrade. Invoice date: 11/30/13. P.O. date: 2/11/14.
- \$7,134.23 from CT Consultants for Headworks. Invoice date: 12/13/13. P.O. date: 2/11/14.
- \$41,850 from CT Consultants for WWTP Upgrade. Invoice date: 12/13/14. P.O. date: 2/11/14.
- \$19,749.16 from OVB for Fire Station Bond. Invoice date: 1/8/14. P.O. date: 2/3/14.
- \$3,767.40 from TRZ for Notify Now System. Invoice date: 1/16/14. P.O. date: 2/3/14.
- \$3,066 from Smart Bill for forms & envelopes. Invoice date: 1/30/14. P.O. date: 2/5/14.
- \$19,236.96 from Waste Management for Jan Refuse. Invoice date: 2/1/14. P.O. date: 2/3/14.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor reported on correspondence received from the Children & Family First Council. They persist in sending the City bills for the \$1,000 in dues that they have assessed their members. Mr. Salisbury has informed them that they lack the statutory authority to assess dues against their statutorily mandated members, such as the City. Later in the meeting, Mr. Gallagher asked what he should do when he attends their meeting later this week and they ask him for the money. After checking his schedule, Mr. Salisbury offered to attend with him.

Mr. Johnson asked if wireless internet was going to be made available in the City Park. Mr. Finney said that the City could look into the cost. Mr. Johnson thought that Digital River might pay on the cost.

Mr. Cremeens asked if the light on Locust Street no longer flashes. Mr. Finney said that the change was made by the State when they re-did the timing on the traffic lights.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the four-way stop at Third and Olive was going to be taken out. Mr. Finney answered that he saw no reason to leave it there, but removal would need to wait until the weather breaks.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-09 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR CHEMICALS AND QUICKLIME**. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-10 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL MOVING OHIO FORWARD GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, Mr. Brown voted no. All other votes were yes. Ordinance No. O2014-10 was placed on first reading.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2014-11 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, Mr. Wallis abstained. All other votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2014-12 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2010-077, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2011-01, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2011-79, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2012-66, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-21, AMENDING C6(C), COMPENSATION FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES, ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF AND REPEALING PREVIOUS ORDINANCES SETTING SAID COMPENSATION**. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Johnson asked if the positions were being eliminated. He was told that just the salaries were being eliminated. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Gallagher voted no. All other votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2014-13 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO SET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014**. Mr. Brown made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2014-14 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission