

April 5, 2011

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gallipolis Municipal Courtroom on Olive Street, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President James Cozza called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

James A. Cozza, President  
 James Jay Cremeens, Vice-President  
 Lori F. Bailey, 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  
 Amber Gillenwater, Gallipolis Daily Tribune  
 Ronnie Lynch                      Tony Gallagher                      Marvin Vanderberg  
 Dottie Chestnut                      Roma Wood                      John Allen  
 Clint Patterson                      Johnathan Painter                      Chris Daniels  
 Amanda Brumfield                      Tristin Brumfield                      Genevieve Ferrell  
 Micah Sanders                      McKinsey Sanders                      Lori Sanders

Commission received the minutes of the March 29, 2011 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- All of the Spruce Street annexation letters have been sent out.
- Hedgewood Drive – The street has been marked for core drilling, which will begin soon.
- Mound Hill Cemetery Road – The County Engineer cannot do the work necessary. U.S. Bridge can do the work for an estimated \$65,000, not including paving, which could cost an additional \$38,000. We have applied for a CDBG grant for the paving.
- Mr. Finney attended three sessions at the Ohio Safety Congress last Thursday. They were well worth the effort to attend.
- Concerning how other entities treat large water bills due to breaks, Mr. Finney spoke to Gallia County Rural Water. They give a one-time credit per lifetime. He also searched through the websites of about fifty municipalities. One gave half off, but most had no credit. Middleport offers “water leak insurance” at a cost of \$25 per year. This provides up to \$300 worth of credit per insured household per year. Only 17% of households are taking advantage of the program. Mr. Finney showed slides of projected revenues at different levels of participation and monthly premium rates. If we went with such a program, we would likely cap our coverage at \$1,000 per year to encourage more participation. There was discussion of the decrease in water pressure that the customer should notice with a large leak. Also discussed was the form that relief could take for those whose leak has already occurred. Mr. Salisbury said that the Commission could adopt a resolution for them. After discussion, Commissioners were not in favor of granting relief for those already affected, but were interested in adopting a program of leak insurance. Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Vanderberg described coverage currently offered by Columbia Gas, which covers all kinds of breaks, including water lines and electrical.

Gallipolis City Commission

April 5, 2011

Page 2

- Sale of surplus guns – The City Solicitor has instructed that if a gun is connected as evidence in a specific court case, the judge in that case would have to write an order for disposal. Otherwise, we are free to enter into contract with anyone we choose. We can trade them for new guns or whatever. There are more than a dozen guns to dispose of. The Commissioners were in favor of such a trade.
- Spring Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The low bid for demolition came in at \$29,275 from Sexton's Excavating. Rainbow Environmental Services submitted the low bid for asbestos removal of \$24,972. This could come down even more if EPA allows disposal of floor tiles and some other materials in an ordinary landfill. We will bid out the Cox property after purchase. Mr. Finney expects to get some good local bids on that.
- The public Hearing for the Justice Center will be next Tuesday. Commissioners decided to meet at 6:30 p.m. The architect from Panich & Noel and Mr. Breech need to be present to answer questions.
- Mr. Finney met with GDC concerning their water problem. They need 120 lbs. of pressure because of their water sprinklers and use an estimated 1.3 million gallons per month. Mr. Finney has an engineer coming in to look at designing a solution. Mr. Finney estimates it might cost around \$50,000 to get water to them. They bring in around \$82,000 of income per year.
- GDC agreed to take care of the trees on the left side of the road. We will take care of the trees on the right side.
- Mr. Finney checked into the cost of a shingle style metal roof for the new Justice Center. It would be much more expensive than a regular metal roof.
- The Gallipolis Daily Tribune is publishing a special edition in the April 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the newspaper. It will be called "Hometown Pride." They are soliciting businesses and organizations to place ads in this edition. A one-quarter page ad would run \$650. Ads must be placed by April 13<sup>th</sup>. We have a line in the budget for legal advertisements. After a brief discussion, the Commission postponed a decision to next Tuesday.
- The Employee Personnel Policy Handbook review is complete. Mr. Finney would like to go over the changes at the next regularly scheduled meeting in two weeks.
- Concerning the flagpole repair at Fortification Hill, Mr. Finney found a contractor who can do the job for \$2,500. He will install a pulley system and cut off the knobs that are protruding and tearing up the flags.
- Mr. Finney showed a PowerPoint presentation concerning permits required by the City. Mr. Finney showed that there are no restrictions on trees except in the City's right-of-way. Mr. Finney is still seeking greater clarification of these rules. Mr. Finney said he checked with Mr. Davis and he did not tell the lady who complained to Mr. Cremeens that she needed a permit to plant a tree. He told her she needed one to take one down if it was in the streetscape. There is good reason to regulate trees next to the street for safety as well as drainage concerns and so forth. West Virginia is much more restrictive with permits. Mr. Johnson said that contractors actually appreciate the fact that permits keep some from gaining an unfair advantage in competing for projects.

The City Auditor presented the March Financial Statement for approval. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the March Financial Statement, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

March donations were presented for acceptance. These were \$1,320 from the Douglas Wetherholt Estate for the Bandstand Preservation Fund and \$50 from the Gallipolis Elks Lodge, \$120 from the Gallipolis Junior Women's Club, and \$120 from the Gallipolis Emblem Club for the Easter in the Park Children's Program. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept these donations, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers presented one liquor license transfer from Elrods Inc. to Jam Zak Inc. dba Uncle Kennys. The police department reported no issues with this transfer. Mr. Johnson made a motion not to request a hearing,

Gallipolis City Commission  
April 5, 2011  
Page 3

seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon voice vote on the motion, three voted yes, with Ms. Bailey abstaining due to a relative involved in the business.

The City Solicitor provided an answer on whether a municipality can limit the size or location of political signs. He said that the size of signs can be restricted, but the only time the placement of "protected speech" signs can be restricted is when they distract or interfere with motorists' visibility or with the state right-of-way.

Mr. Salisbury reported on repairs on the building next to the post office. He and the Code Enforcement Officer will remind the owner of the timeline to complete repairs, since these repairs are going very slowly. When repairs are completed, it will be up to Mr. Bostic to determine if the building remains a nuisance or the nuisance has been cured.

Mr. Johnson said that the 2010 Census figures show that growth in the County and City is basically flat. He said we need the community's help in finding ideas that would give a better quality of life to residents to entice people to move here. Mr. Johnson encouraged the building of a staffed community center with volleyball courts, basketball courts, and an indoor pool, perhaps near the library. He would like to see the community involved through the formation of a committee to brainstorm ideas. Several in the audience expressed a desire to help with such a group. Following an extended, enthusiastic discussion, the Commission decided to discuss this idea further at the next CIC meeting and at the public hearing next week.

President Cozza recognized the Boy Scouts in attendance at tonight's meeting.

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

  
Clerk, City Commission

  
President, City Commission