

April 19, 2011

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 6:30 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  
 Steven E. Wallis, 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  
 John Allen                          Sandra Saxon                          Bill Gene Johnson  
 Randy Breech                      Robbie Jenkins                      Dave Snyder  
 Bev Dunkle

President Cozza opened the public hearing on the new justice center. Mr. Breech discussed materials to be used in construction of the exterior of the building. He also pointed out changes to the front of the building, such as lowering and widening the porch roof. He said that the window heights would need to be adjusted. As portrayed, they are too tall. The walls will be fire-rated drywall. Waiting until the state budget is adopted will delay the project around two to three weeks, but should still give sufficient time to get under roof before bad weather.

Mr. Robbie Jenkins asked if there would be a drive thru. This was followed by a lengthy discussion, but the bottom line was that Judge Margaret Evans does not want a drive thru. She wants those paying court fines to come in and pay in person. There was a question about the location of the air conditioning units. These will be located behind the building.

Mr. Cremeens made a motion to approve the new design, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Commission received the minutes of the April 5 and 12, 2011 meetings prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Mr. Dave Snyder was invited to address the Commission with an idea he had for encouraging tourism in Gallipolis. He said he has connections with the art community through his work in sculpture and contacts gained while teaching at Marshall University. He said that some communities were taking advantage of the opportunity to highlight the art work of interested sculptors through the establishment of sculpture parks in their communities. Art work is provided free, "on-loan" for the communities to display. Artists are able to sell their work to any interested buyers or re-cycle them with other works after a period on display. Commissioners were interested in his idea and encouraged him to join the committee that will soon be forming to generate ideas.

President Cozza read proclamations for Earth Day, Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Arbor Day, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. He presented the proclamations to Ms. Bev Dunkle. Ms. Dunkle invited the Commissioners to attend a Gallipolis in Bloom Committee meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Exchange, set for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in the City Park. They will be planting a tree in honor of Arbor Day and will be planting flowers in containers in the park and on the street corners. The event is sponsored by Bob Evans Farms, Bossard Memorial Library, Gallipolis Garden Club, Open Gate Garden Club, Bob's Market & Greenhouses, Gallipolis in Bloom, and the City of Gallipolis.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Hedgewood Drive has been staked off in preparation for taking core drillings.
- Cemetery Road is about to be lost. Mr. Finney showed slides of the most recent damage. U.S. Bridge is coming at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow to give an estimate. We must do something quickly to fix the problem before it gets any worse. Mr. Breech was asked to share his ideas for fixing the problem. He said that the clay could be replaced with very large limestone. The job is too big to be done in-house; an outside contractor must be hired. He suggested getting in a track-hoe to see what's there. Mr. Salisbury urged placing warning signs for public safety. Mr. Wallis suggested constructing an alternate escape route. Mr. Breech was asked to look into a possible alternate route.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> is Spring Clean-up Day in Gallipolis.
- At the recent Mayor's Meeting, Mr. Finney learned of a website for placing legal notices. The requirement for publication will be met by placing an ad in the local newspaper, referring readers to the website. The Governor is also looking into creating regional healthcare insurance pools for public entities.
- The contractor that was interested in developing sites on Spring Hills Lane and had earlier requested sewer service has now increased his project from five to nineteen sites. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the extension of sewer services to these nineteen sites, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- Current Code regulations allow one yard sale every six months at your own residence. Residents must prominently display their permit. There is a need to either revise the regulations or enforce them as written. Some people are setting up at places other than their own residences, such as on vacant commercial parking lots. After some discussion, President Cozza asked Mr. Finney to bring any proposed changes in an ordinance.
- Homeland Security Training- Mr. Finney reminded Commissioners that they must complete training for homeland security. This is especially necessary for the President and Vice-President of Commission because of their decision-making position in an emergency. Mr. Cremeens has completed the training. He will submit the dates to Mr. Finney.
- Reminder: U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson will hold a Town Hall Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Gallia Academy High School.
- Operation Street-smart- Lieutenant Matt Champlin and Patrolman Adam Holcomb are putting on a class to educate the local community on drug issues. It is set for Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A huge cherry tree, located on City property between Adrian and Teodora Avenues, was hit by lightning. Safety tape has been put around the area to protect the public.
- Work on the website for the City has begun. It should take between eight to ten weeks to get in place.
- Tree City USA Seminar- Brett Bostic and Bev Dunkle will attend on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Heritage Ohio- Mr. Finney reminded Commissioners that he plans to attend this seminar because of the valuable content. It is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cremeens said that he was concerned over the state of the road to Mound Hill with the Easter and Memorial Day weekends coming up. Mr. Finney showed the Commissioners where the new building would be located at the foot of Mound Hill.

Mr. Johnson talked about whimsical sculptures located in various spots around the town of Mt. Carmel. He expressed enthusiasm for Mr. Snyder's idea of placing sculptures in Gallipolis. He also said that a group with which he is involved, called Ohio River Live, is planning an all-day music festival to be held at the City Park, possibly on Labor Day weekend. They are having fund-raising events to help finance the festival. He said that it might be a good idea to encourage non-profit organizations to prepare and sell food for the various events scheduled for the downtown. Greater community involvement could stimulate more tourism for all of the venues throughout Gallipolis during these special events.

Mr. Wallis questioned why GDC would need 125 psi of pressure for their sprinkler system. There are special engineers who determine the requirements for sprinkler systems.

Mr. Wallis also asked about the 75% tax abatement for the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Salisbury will bring an ordinance for the abatement to a future meeting.

After taking a short break, the Commission returned to special session to review changes in the employee personnel policy handbook. Mr. Finney highlighted proposed changes. In particular, the handbook committee, comprised of employees, proposed the addition of an extra holiday for Veterans Day. Commissioners were not in favor of adding a holiday, but were willing to exchange a holiday if the employees wished to trade one or two of their current holidays for Veterans Day. Mr. Finney said that he doubted that they would wish to make a trade.

Mr. Finney had wanted to change Section 3.03(B) Overtime and Hours of Work to eliminate sick hours from "hours worked" in the calculation of overtime. Employees were adamant that this would cause problems in getting employees to come in for work outside of their normal working hours. The village is already going beyond the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the inclusion of holidays, vacation and compensatory time in "hours worked." Following discussion, the Commissioners decided to leave sick hours in the calculation of overtime.

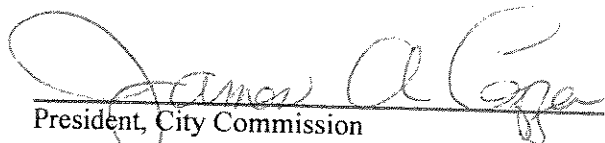
Another proposed change that generated some discussion was the payout of accumulated sick leave upon separation. It is currently capped at 20% for five to ten years of service and 35% for anything above ten years. The Committee proposed changing the policy to allow two additional tiers for conversion: from 20 to 30 years at 40% and 30 years or greater at 45%. After some discussion of the cost involved and what other entities do for their employees, the Commissioners were not in favor of adopting this change.

Ms. Landers requested clarification of Section 4.06(B) Military Leave, which discusses paying the difference between military pay and the employee's regular rate of pay up to \$500. As written, it is unclear whether this is meant to be applied as an aggregate amount for the entire time of service or as an amount per pay period. Mr. Finney will look into the matter and clarify the wording.

Mr. Wallis requested additional time to finish reviewing the entire policy manual before taking a vote to approve. The Commission will re-visit the approval of the personnel policy manual at the next meeting.

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

  
Clerk, City Commission

  
President, City Commission