

April 20, 2010

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 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		
Judge Margaret Evans, Gallipolis Municipal Court		
Michelle Miller, Gallipolis Daily Tribune		
Ronnie Lynch	Deborah Stewart	Kenneth Stewart
D. J. Wetherholt	Fred Holmes	Roberta Holzer
Clint Patterson	Dottie Chestnut	Claudia Miller
Randy Breech	Christine Myers Cozza	Janet Johnson
Michael Smith	John I. Jones	B. G. Johnson

Commission received the minutes of the March 23 and April 6, 2010 meetings prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Mr. Fred Holmes of Volunteer Energy Services, Inc (VESI). He briefly explained the voted natural gas aggregation "opt out" plan that the City has. He said that their original contract with the City set the price of natural gas for the residents on a standard that no longer exists. Under the new standard, the price for customers should be at or lower than the price charged by Columbia Gas. Mr. Holmes said that he planned to send postcards outlining the changes to those residents already on the plan and those served by Columbia Gas. Mr. Johnson questioned the advantage to residents if there is no savings. Mr. Holmes said replied that the advantage was that residents would not be charged any more than the Columbia Gas price and could pay less. Under some other vendors, residents are locked into a set price THAT could exceed the price set in the open market. The advantage to the City is that VESI makes a contribution annually for community reinvestment. The City Solicitor will review the new contract.

Ms. Christine Myers Cozza was recognized next for *Privilege of Floor*. She asked the Commissioners to defeat the Ordinance No. O2010-17, allowing the sale of chicks, rabbits, ducks, and turtles as pets. She informed the Commission of the Humane Society's opposition to such sales due to the inhumane treatment that most of these animals receive as impulse purchases into homes with inadequate resources for their proper care. She said that when families tire of their pet, if it should survive improper handling, poor nutrition, and inadequate shelter provided at the mercy of its host family, there are no shelters available in Gallia County for these types of animals. In addition, many turtles carry salmonella. She urged Commissioners to consider these grim facts when making their decision

Ms. Bobbi Holzer was granted *Privilege of Floor*. She stated that she and other residents of First Avenue were concerned about proposed parking on First Avenue should Davis Hall be demolished for a parking lot. She asked the Commission to exercise care in preserving the historic, colonial flavor of Gallipolis. As before, she urged the City to save Davis Hall.

Mr. Doug Wetherholt addressed the Commission next. He said that he was concerned about the façade of the proposed new City Building. He would like for the building to make a statement by employing colonial architecture reminiscent of the City's heritage as the "Old French City." He reminded Commissioners that the City's history is our big selling point in drawing tourism dollars. President Cozza responded that the outside of the building has not been finalized. A building committee, comprised of two interested residents, one City Commissioner, the City Manager, and Mr. Breech, will be appointed to make recommendations to the Commission concerning the exterior of the building.

Mr. Mike Fulks, a resident of Hedgewood Drive, asked the Commission to look into the repair of a section of Hedgewood Drive, which is rapidly deteriorating. He said that water is running under the road, washing away the road bed and creating a dangerous situation for residents. The City Manager plans to go look at the damage with Mr. Fulks.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Work begins Monday on the Spruce Street Water/Sewer Improvements Project. Most of the property owners have agreed to annexation, with four still in limbo.
- Fourteen houses have been demolished under the County grant, which is being administered by Community Action. The house on Henkle Avenue is ready for demolition. President Cozza asked for an updated list, which the City Manager will send by e-mail.
- Mr. Finney was placed on the waiting list for the Public Information Officer Training set for April 28th. If an opening becomes available, they will contact him.
- The sidewalk inspection and repair project is going well. Mr. Davis has resolved most of the issues involving property owners on Kineon Drive.
- The temporary court facility on Olive Street is being painted. The facility received state approval today.
- The Police Department has two bicycles now: one purchased by the City and the other donated by the Prosecutor.
- The City received word that the Assistance to Firefighters "Jaws of Life" equipment grant has been awarded to the City.
- The Police Department has asked to appoint James Bartles as police officer. Chief Patterson listed Mr. Bartles prior work experience and qualifications. Commissioners also discussed hiring an additional officer if the City receives the County's OCJS grant money for a drug enforcement officer. If we receive the grant, we would likely hire a new patrolman and re-assign a seasoned officer to the new drug enforcement position. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve hiring James Bartles now and another officer, if we receive the County grant money, motion seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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. Ms. Landers informed the Commission that \$267,873.38 is currently due back to the General Fund from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the COPS Grant. \$141,000 has been transferred to date of the \$574,218.62 budgeted to transfer to the New Municipal Building Fund. The unencumbered balance in the General Fund should be around \$950,000 once all of these amounts are advanced and transferred. Upon voice vote to approve the March Financial Statement, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor requested executive session for five personnel and legal issues.

President Cozza asked the Commissioners for a motion to approve one of the designs for a new municipal building. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve continuing with the Single Story/Plan A Building, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. In discussion, Mr. Johnson told Mr. Breech that he was still worried that a lack of detail in the plans could allow expensive change orders. Mr. Breech responded that he had never had a contract go over 5% in changes.

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In response to a question from the Commission, Mr. Finney stated that Mr. Jim Davis is working to assure that sidewalk contractors have paid their permit fees, but has had a real challenge in tracking all of them.

Mr. Cozza gave the City Manager some paperwork from the USDA concerning assistance programs for home repairs for low income home owners.

Mr. Johnson asked if there was any way to encourage re-building on those properties involved in demolitions. Everyone agreed that vacant lots were not the goal of demolition.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2010-14 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE GALLIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT FOR GREEN TOWNSHIP**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2010-17 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.12(b), SALE OF CERTAIN ANIMALS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were no. O2010-17 was defeated.

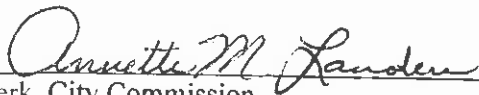
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2010-20 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR WATER/SEWER MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES, HYDRANTS AND METERS**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

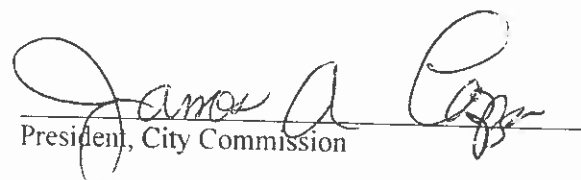
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2010-21 entitled **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A LICENSE TAX PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 4504.172 AT THE RATE OF \$5.00 PER MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

President Cozza asked that the reading of Ordinance N. O2010-22 be suspended to allow legal review by the City Solicitor.

Ms. Bailey made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues as set forth in ORC Section 121.22(G)(1) and legal matters as set forth in ORC Section 121.22, seconded by Mr. Johnson. President Cozza announced that there would be no business to follow executive session. Upon roll call on the motion to enter executive session, all votes were yes. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to special session.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission