

June 7, 2011

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 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
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
Karen Sprague, Gallia County Administrator
Amber Gillenwater, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
Ronnie Lynch Clint Patterson Tony Gallagher
Bette Null Horan Marvin Vanderberg Jon Lynch
Charles Adkins Roberta Holzer Robert Marchi
Polly Wetherholt Caroll Snowden Dottie Chestnut
Herman Sprague

Commission received the minutes of the May 17 and May 23, 2011 meetings prior to this meeting. Mr. Wallis asked that the minutes of the 17th be corrected to show that he abstained from voting on the motion to approve payment of the invoices over \$3,000, due to his employment with AEP, one of the vendors on the list. There being no other corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved as corrected.

President Cozza invited Ms. Karen Sprague, Gallia County Administrator, to present the Fair Housing Public Hearing. Ms. Sprague passed out bags with items relating to the issue of fair housing. She said that those entities receiving CDBG grant funding are required by federal and state law to conduct these hearings. Fair Housing laws make it illegal to discriminate against a person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots, in advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, and in the provision of real estate brokerage services. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission enforces the law.

Ms. Sprague told the Commissioners that their bid for CDBG paving came in under the estimate, which means that the grant match will be less.

Ms. Horan was granted *Privilege of Floor*. She said that she had driven up the new road to the cemetery, describing it as frightening and steep, but added that she was thankful it was there. President Cozza said that the City was planning to ask the County to chip and seal the road. Repair of the old road would not seem to be an option at this time.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Demolition of old City Building - The asbestos abatement is finished. Telephone and electric service are being disconnected. Demolition should begin next week.
- Reminder - The Tour of Ohio Bike race is June 19th.
- Bids on Davis Hall lot – Mr. Finney apologized that the advertisement for bid did not go into the newspaper, as he had thought. It is currently being advertised for sale at a minimum bid of \$200,000.
- Hedgewood Drive is still sinking and moving. Mr. Finney has been pressing for drawings, but has not received them yet.
- Cemetery Road – Seeding begins tomorrow. The County cannot help with the chip and seal, but gave us the name of a local contractor who could quote the job. This type of surface should last around seven years.
- Slip at top of Mound Hill – We are waiting for US Bridge to schedule our job. They have been contacted and told that the area is now accessible.
- Slip on Allen Drive – The maintenance department has been working to reconnect the lines, but the ground is still moving. A permanent repair cannot be made until the ground is stabilized.
- Mr. Finney would like to advertise services of the City in the Chamber's booklet that they pass out to visitors and new residents. An ad would cost around \$795. President Cozza asked that he e-mail a copy of his planned ad. It will need to be ordered in the next week in order to make the publication deadline.
- The ODNR Recycling grant requires that Mr. Finney attend a meeting, which is scheduled for June 20th.
- Water Leak Insurance – Mr. Finney distributed copies of a proposed voluntary water leak insurance program, as discussed at an earlier meeting. Coverage would cost \$2 per month and would cover up to \$750 per meter per year of any overage caused by a leak and meeting certain criteria. Commissioners were asked to look over the rules and submit any changes to be included in an ordinance for next week's meeting. The City Solicitor has approved the program as to form.
- The sponsors of Chili-fest have requested to sell beer, as they did last year. Chief Patterson reported no problems with the conduct at last year's festival. Mr. Johnson made a motion to allow the sale of beer at this year's Chilli-fest, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- Representatives from the 2012 American Wind Symphony are coming to town tomorrow to discuss plans to come to the City Park during their 2012 season. Commissioners briefly mentioned that the horse carriage rides were going on at the park and have caused no problems.
- On June 20th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Beltone will be celebrating their Grand Reopening. Mr. Finney cannot attend and asked that one or two Commissioners volunteer to go to represent the City.
- Reminder - The Band Organ Rally is scheduled for this coming Saturday and Sunday in the City Park.
- Haskins Park has been paved. The other areas are to be paved soon.
- FEMA came to town today to gather numbers for possible disaster relief. Mr. Finney submitted information on Cemetery Roads (\$380,000), Allen Drive (\$200,000), Hedgewood Drive (\$500,000), and the slip on Mound Hill (\$75,000). He also talked about First Avenue and the slip on Chillicothe Road, but they are on private property. If the City has easements for the line on Chillicothe Road, that might qualify for coverage.

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

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Ms. Landers informed the Commissioners that she had submitted the application for LEAP funding of a performance audit. Legislation on this will be introduced at the next meeting, which is scheduled for June 14th.

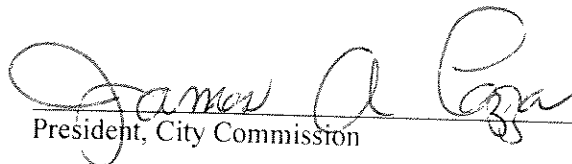
The City Solicitor recognized the Tax Department for the good information provided, which allowed him to file cases to collect unpaid taxes before the deadlines pass. They have filed over 100 cases so far. All are in the early stages of litigation.

Mr. Salisbury requested executive session for personnel and legal issues.

Mr. Johnson reported on his meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee. (Ms. Bailey was unable to attend.) He said that it went very well. Ms. Becky Nesbitt provided leadership. For homework, they were asked to look over earlier strategic plans to get ideas to incorporate into a new plan. For about the next six months, Ms. Clark has the use of a computer program which can predict the economic effects of changes in economic factors. For instance, what would be the outcome of adding another fast food restaurant? What would be the impact of a fire in the downtown? This should help predict which changes should have the most positive impact on the local economy. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th, at a location to be announced.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues as set forth in ORC 121.22 and legal issues per ORC 121.22(G), seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to regular session. They discussed briefly the need to go ahead and establish the committee to make recommendations of color of brick, carpet, tiles, etc. for the new Justice Center. Ms. Bailey volunteered to serve on the committee. Mr. Finney will also be a part of the committee. Mr. Breech will need to make suggestions based on the costs of materials to make sure that we do not go over budget. Others will be selected from names of interested residents who earlier volunteered to serve. There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned.


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission