

July 2, 2013

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

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

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

James Jay Cremeens, President
 Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 James A. Cozza, 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
 Tony Gallagher Clint Patterson Keith Elliott
 Joy Elliott Ronnie Lynch Carol Pierce

Commission received the minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting prior to this meeting. Mr. Brown mentioned that the roll call vote was not in the minutes for Ordinance No. O2013-39. This will be added to the minutes. There being no other corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Mound Hill Road Repair – The contractor is 80% done with the concrete work, on schedule, with the project looking good.
- The Park front electrical panel upgrade project is complete.
- Municipal Income Tax reform – Mr. Finney attended the meeting in Athens, as announced at the last meeting. They talked about what is going on with compromises. The Ohio Municipal League is having a tax meeting this month. Mr. Finney and Mr. Lynch plan to attend one day of the two-day seminar. There are many issues to be resolved before the bill is ready for passage.
- America in Bloom – Mr. Finney thanked everyone for their help with this year's contest. The judges seemed happy with the work that was done.
- Overnight docking of boats at the public use area – There has been some abuse in the long-term docking of boats at the public use area, which needs to be addressed through an ordinance. Mr. Wallis agreed that this is an area of concern. Those who leave their boats docked for extended periods block others from access. There is a boat docking facility at the mouth of Chickamauga Creek, which provides dock space for visitors as well as longer term rental. Mr. Cozza suggested that the ordinance be worded similarly to the one governing the parking of recreational vehicles, which was adopted a few years ago. In discussion, it was suggested that three nights should be the maximum for docking of boats at the public use area.
- Health care costs – Mr. Finney requested executive session to discuss the contract for health care. Many of the regulations of Obamacare take effect on January 1, 2014. Mr. Finney is negotiating with Medical Mutual to keep our rates down.
- Court Street parking – Mr. Finney showed a drawing, prepared by Mr. Swisher, for one-way traffic and parking along Court Street. There are currently twenty-six parking spaces on Court Street. This could be increased to thirty-two spaces with angle parking on the Visitor Center side of the street. President

Cremeens responded that several residents are in favor of the change. Mr. Johnson began a discussion of the flow of traffic through the Municipal Parking lot. All seemed to favor retaining both Court Street entrances into the parking lot as entrances only, with traffic flowing out onto Third Avenue.

- Fire-damaged house at 59 Garfield – Mr. Finney informed the Commissioners that the property owner is not going to do anything with this house after all. Code has been pursuing this matter for several years.
- AEP's plans to combine stations will result in the loss of our local station. Mr. Finney has expressed his concern to the management of AEP.
- Mound Hill Access Road – Mr. Finney recommended closing the access road during the festival this year, due to safety concerns. The Commissioners were in agreement. Mr. Finney will notify the media and post signs at the road.
- Demolition Grant – The owner of 4 Edgemont Drive has requested to have this property added to the list for demolition under the grant. There was a discussion of this house, plus a couple of other properties. President Cremeens mentioned a house on Vine Street. Mr. Bostic is referring the information on that house to the City Solicitor to see if we can get it demolished. Mr. Finney said that Code is checking to see if the house that Russell Wood was thinking of refurbishing is already condemned. Mr. Johnson made a motion to add 4 Edgemont Drive to the list above the house owned by Russell Wood, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon voice vote on the motion, Mr. Brown voted no. All other votes were yes.
- There is River Recreation Festival program at 7 p.m. tomorrow night that the Commissioners were encouraged to attend.
- Mr. Finney plans to take vacation the week of July 22nd. He requested executive session to discuss a parking contract and the medical insurance contract.

The City Auditor reported that the City saved \$94,966.47 in interest payments in the TIF Fund by paying off the SIB loan early.

The City Solicitor provided a progress report on the feasibility of contracting with the Gallia County Sheriff's office for police services. He has been consulting with Chief Patterson and Sheriff Browning. It appears that the figures provided in our performance audit were very inaccurate. Our workforce has already been reduced. The department is operating now with the least personnel possible to cover all shifts and leave time. Shifts are ten hours and staggered to assure coverage. There does not seem to be any demand for special duty police services other than those currently under contract. The recommendation that officers clock out for their half-hour lunch breaks would leave only one officer on duty at those times on the shifts that only have two officers. Chief Patterson added that reserve officers work around eight hours per month, which provides some additional coverage. Mr. Salisbury will give a complete report when he has finished gathering all of the facts and figures.

Mr. Brown observed that there is damage to the stone in a couple of places along the top of the entryway to Mound Hill Cemetery. Also, the chains along the road need re-painting. Mr. Finney agreed and reported that the damage to the stone at Pine Street Cemetery has been fixed.

President Cremeens asked about a car lot on Eastern Avenue that is in bad shape. Mr. Finney replied that Code has been trying to determine who to hold responsible. Mr. Salisbury stated that they are violating several ordinances.

Mr. Johnson talked about a rental house near his home that may be turned into an "initial independence" home through federal funding. Mr. Finney noted that the City is looking into any zoning issues concerning such usage.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned that Mr. Finney will be parade marshal for the River Recreation Festival Parade. Mr. Finney remarked that if the parade must be cancelled due to weather, it will probably not be re-scheduled.

President Cremeens complimented the Street Department for all of the clean-up and painting they did, in spite of the rain, in preparation for America in Bloom.

Mr. Wallis asked if it would be possible to get the State to pay for clean-up along Mill Creek where it crosses Eastern Avenue. Portions of City property along Mill Creek Road are overgrown as well. Someone was reported to be climbing on the water towers recently. Mr. Wallis suggested that it would be good if the City had access to an "arm tractor" for mowing areas like that.

President Cremeens asked about the bucket truck. Mr. Finney replied that it was too big and had to be sent back. We are shopping for another candidate.

Mr. Cozza reported that he and Mr. Wallis attended the post-audit meeting with the State Auditors. He commented that the State Auditors were complimentary of our auditor and her people.

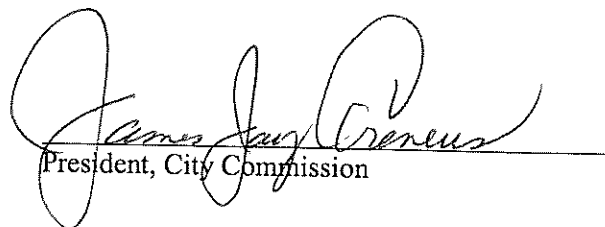
There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-40 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR AN OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (OCJS) PROBATION INTAKE OFFICER GRANT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT IF AWARDED.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cozza. 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. O2013-41 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH GALLIA COUNTY TO FURNISH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Mr. Finney noted that the County forgot to send the renewal of this contract out for January 1, 2013. We must have this contract in place to receive any future FEMA money. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to enter executive session to discuss contracts for parking and medical insurance, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to regular session.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission