

July 5, 2011

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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  
 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                      Clint Patterson                      Tony Gallagher  
 Bob Poling                         Jim Eutsler                                 Dottie Chestnut  
 Claudia Miller

Commission received the minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Demolition of old City Building – The contractor is tearing out the concrete and blacktop, using the materials as fill for the basement and also at the cemetery. The work should be complete in the next two weeks.
- There is a slip on Lower Garfield, affecting the water line. The City will need to move the water line across the road at an estimated cost of between \$15,000 and \$20,000.
- America in Bloom Contest – The City received many good comments from our recent participation in the America in Bloom contest. The conference is set for October 6 – 8 in Washington, DC. Mr. Finney requested permission to take three City employees, Bev Dunkle, Sandee Saxon, and Kim Canaday, with him to the conference. The total cost for registration, meals, hotel rooms, and travel by car would be around \$2,700. Mr. Johnson made a motion to grant permission to pay the costs for these four to attend, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- Hedgewood Drive – The borings are done, but we are still awaiting the report. A sink hole is developing along a section of the road.
- Cemetery slip – U.S. Bridge has driven in the pilings. Work should be completed soon.
- The Committee to assist with aesthetics of outside of new Justice Center met. They looked at brick designs to get quotes for prices. Mr. Finney asked Chief Patterson if he could meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. to go over some items affecting the police department. Chief Patterson said he could. The committee plans to give their recommendations at the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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- Prevailing Wage- The new budget has been signed with the prevailing wage threshold virtually unchanged at \$150,000, not the \$3.5 million anticipated. We may have to consider other, less costly materials to offset price increases.
- The resident firefighter, Mr. James Johnson, has accepted the open position at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Administrative offices – Mr. Finney has put together the space needs and other specifications for the administrative offices. He asked the Commissioners to look at the list of requirements before he sends it out in the request for proposals. The Commissioners had nothing to add to the list.

The City Auditor told the Commissioners that the draft audit report that she sent them last week is not the final report and, by law, not for publication. There were no citations or recommendations. She asked whether they wished to waive the post-audit conference. Mr. Johnson made a motion to waive the post-audit conference, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers asked if the Commission had sufficient time to review the information that she presented at the last meeting and was ready to commit to using Ohio Capital Asset Financing for their bond issuances. Following a short discussion, Ms. Landers offered to poll the banks to see if any believed they could compete with the rates being offered. She will present her findings at the next meeting.

Commission discussed the appointment of Mr. Jordan Ray Shaffer as Volunteer Firefighter. Mr. Poling provided a brief biography and recommended his appointment. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to appoint Mr. Jordan Ray Shaffer as Volunteer Firefighter, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor gave an update on the purchase of the Cox property. He said that one party to the sale needs to come here to sign some paperwork, or send an authorized representative. Once that is done, the sale should proceed.

Mr. Salisbury reported that the tax and code enforcement efforts have begun to produce results. The tax department has received a couple of payments and is in communication concerning many others. Public nuisance hearings are set for July 19<sup>th</sup> for those who have requested them for code issues. All of the property owners are being properly notified.

There was a short discussion of the Intoxilizer 8000 case. The judge has made his ruling. Mr. Salisbury will report more fully after he has had time to review the ruling.

Mr. Salisbury again encouraged the Commissioners to consider attending the civil and criminal training coming up on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. He requested executive session for two legal matters.

Mr. Cremeens brought up a problem with a rental unit on Second Avenue. The tenant there is lounging on a mattress in front of an open door, which does not create a good impression for those traveling through town. He has learned that some communities have required screen doors on all rental units to help address similar problems. There was a short discussion of the legality of doing this. Mr. Salisbury said that he would look into the matter.

President Cozza told the Commission that the Chamber has received notification from Infocision that they will be terminating their lease on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The CIC paid off their loan in April. There is some speculation that this may mean that Infocision will be leasing directly from the Cornett family, but this is not confirmed.

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Mrs. Cherrington called Mr. Cozza last week to ask that the Commission consider some sort of recognition of the contributions of the Mullins family, who used to own the Lafayette Building. After some discussion, the Commission decided that such special recognition, though well deserved, might slight and offend others who have also contributed in similar manner over the years.


There was a discussion of criteria to set for the new resident firefighter. Chief Poling stated that it was hard to get people to sit station on weekdays. Mr. Cremeens asked if it was legal to require the resident firefighter to be present 24 hours per day. Mr. Finney told the Commission that the resident firefighter does get extra time off, but must schedule station relief ahead of time. Mr. Salisbury has been checking into the legalities concerning employees engaged in fire protection activities. He will present his findings at the next meeting. Green Township has already signed their contract and sent it back to us. Mr. Wallis suggested having a work session to iron out all of these issues. Mr. Johnson said he would rather have Mr. Wallis and Mr. Cremeens represent the Commission at a work session. Mr. Cremeens and Mr. Wallis agreed to meet with the City Manager, the Fire Chief, and the City Solicitor and bring their recommendations to the Commission.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2011-16 entitled **AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE IN DOWNTOWN GALLIPOLIS FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS**. Ms. Bailey made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The City Manager asked to extend the area of the search from the 200 block to the 500 block. (It had been from the 200 block to the 400 block.) The Commissioners were in agreement with this. There was a brief discussion of space needs and some of the possible offerings. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Ms. Bailey announced that she would not be able to attend the July 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to enter executive session to discuss pending lawsuits and personnel as set forth in ORC 121.22(G)(1) & (2), seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes. 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