

July 6, 2010

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 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
 Amber L. Fellure, Assistant City Solicitor
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
 Amber Gillenwater, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
 Ronnie Lynch Tony Gallagher Bette Null Horan
 Barb Epling Marvin Vanderberg Polly Wetherholt

Commission received the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Ms. Amber Gillenwater. She asked the Commission if there has been any progress on the purchase of property for a new City Building. Mr. Finney told her that this was still in negotiations.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Spruce Street Sewer Project is two thirds complete. Expected completion date is now around the end of July, due to recent heavy rains.
- Demolition of houses under the grant is expected to run \$95,000. A total of eighteen have been demolished so far, with several more scheduled.
- Asbestos abatement on Davis Hall is expected to begin this week. Demolition is being delayed to mid-August to avoid weddings scheduled at the French Art Colony in mid-summer.
- The judges for America in Bloom seemed happy with the town, but could not reveal much until all of the judging is complete and the formal announcements made at the symposium in the fall.
- Concrete was poured today for the dumpster in 2 ½ Alley. The dumpster is scheduled for delivery on July 16th.
- A county-wide Emergency Response Plan was developed and the team put into action over the July 4th weekend. All area emergency responders are included on the team. It will be used again for the Gallia County Fair and the Bob Evans Farm Festival.
- Three teen workers have been provided to the City through a program under the Jobs and Family Services office.
- Covered City employees are responding to confidential questionnaires to aid in securing bids on our health insurance. Employees are to place their responses into sealed envelopes to preserve confidentiality under HIPPA; and results will be tabulated by the insurance company.

- The sidewalks and curbs are in need of repair along State Route 141 near Willis Funeral Home. The quote for this work is \$6,250. There is an appropriation on tonight's agenda for this work.
- The City's annual pool party is scheduled for Monday evening, August 16th. Employees, volunteers, Commissioners, board and committee members, and their families all are invited to attend.
- Letters are going out this week to property owners who are in violation of the high weed ordinances. Mr. Finney stated that the City needs to get out of the yard maintenance business by enforcing laws already on the books, which allow fines to be assessed for each day a property owner remains in violation of the law. Ms. Bailey asked if anything was being done about the high weeds that are obstructing the view at the intersection near Taco Bell. Mr. Finney said that this property was included in the letters being sent.
- Mr. Finney mentioned the many activities in the Haskins Park complex this evening. The USTA Quick Start tennis program had their first session tonight, along with the many softball games and evening activities at the municipal pool. He said it was gratifying to see all of the activity all over the park. This was followed by a discussion of the need to resurface the tennis courts.

Mr. Cremeens made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Shane Kyle Plantz to the Gallipolis Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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

Ms. Landers presented two donations for acceptance: \$1,000 from Bob Evans Farms for the Parks & Recreation summer programs and \$50 from Dave Snyder Fabricators for the Canine Cop Fund. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to accept these donations, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

An invoice for \$4,098.77 from AEP for May street lighting was presented for approval. The invoice was dated May 27; and the PO was dated June 1. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers informed the Commissioners that she would be out of the office on Thursday, July 8th and Friday, July 9th on vacation leave to attend the annual Star Quest event at Greenbank, WV. She also requested permission to attend the seminar, HR Law 2010, scheduled for Monday, July 19, at the Charleston (WV) Holiday Inn. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to allow Ms. Landers to attend the seminar as time worked, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

On first reading tonight is the ordinance for the write off of 2009 delinquent water/sewer accounts. Ms. Landers explained that she followed the guidelines established by prior Commissions. If the property is owner-occupied, there is no write off. For properties that are tenant-occupied, the City has been writing off late fees, shut off fees, and consumption fees for meters that are not shut off in a timely manner. The write-off amount for 2009 accounts is \$3,841.22, which is comparable to the amount written off in 2008. We collected \$9,751.79 on these accounts, although some are still on the property tax bills for collection. Ms. Landers offered to let the Commissioners inspect her records to check the details concerning any particular accounts.

President Cozza reported receiving two thank you cards. The first was from the judges of the America in Bloom Contest, thanking the City officials and residents for our participation in the contest. The second was from Ms. Marianne Campbell thanking the Commission for their proclamation celebrating the 60th Anniversary of WJEH Radio. She also thanked the City Manager and his administrative assistant for attending the event. President Cozza again praised the Gallipolis in Bloom Committee, city workers, and residents for the great job they all did in cleaning up and presenting the City looking its best for the judging.

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Following a short discussion on how best to deal with the emergency ordinances on tonight's agenda, the Commission decided to place all of the emergencies on first reading. At the next meeting, they can be read as emergencies if everyone is present. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to read on consent agenda all of the ordinances on tonight's agenda, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The following items were read to the Commission on consent agenda

FIRST READING: Ordinance No. O2010-39 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BLAIR BUILDERS FOR THE LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR STORAGE AND PARKING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

FIRST READING: Ordinance No. O2010-40 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR THE LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

FIRST READING: Ordinance No. O2010-41 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2010-09, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2010-24, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2010-34, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.

FIRST READING: Ordinance No. O2010-42 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2010-10, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2010-25, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.

FIRST READING: Ordinance No. O2010-43 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL FROM THE LEDGERS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS UTILITY BILLING OFFICE CERTAIN PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AS SET FORTH HEREIN.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to place all of the items on consent agenda on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to place the consent agenda on first reading, all votes were yes.

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/land contract issues as set forth in ORC Section 121.22, seconded by Mr. Johnson. President Cozza announced that there would be no business following executive session. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes.

Mr. Gallagher asked to address the Commission. He praised the work that Mr. Finney is doing as City Manager, saying that Mr. Finney is very responsive to concerns of residents and that we are fortunate to have a man of his quality in the office of City Manager. President Cozza thanked him for his comments and agreed that Mr. Finney is doing a wonderful job in a position that is often challenging and thankless.

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