

August 18, 2015

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Steven Wallis called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Steven E. Wallis, President
 James Jay Cremeens, Vice-President
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member
 W. Matthew Johnson, Member

Others attending were:

M. Eugene Greene, City Manager
 Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
 Ronnie Lynch Clint Patterson Jerry Rusk
 Mark Ward Mary Lee Marchi Joy Elliott
 Keith Elliott

Commission received the minutes of the August 4, 2015 and August 8, 2015 meetings prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Mr. Mark Ward, representing Ohio River Live, was granted *Privilege of Floor*. Mr. Ward thanked the City for their assistance in June when their event had to be cancelled. He said that this year's re-scheduled event will coincide with the Chili Fest on October 3rd in the City Park. The event will end around 8 p.m., with chili cooking beginning around 10 a.m. and judging at 2 p.m. Ohio River Live needs permission from the Commission to get another alcohol permit, since their earlier one expired after 30 days, for a quadrant of the park on the State Street side. They would like permission to block State Street off for the event to allow free movement of participants from the Chamber building across to the park. Police Chief Patterson noted that there had been no problems in the past from this arrangement. Upon discussion, the Commissioners agreed to allow the blocking of State Street and for Ohio River Live to get an alcohol permit for the event.

Mr. Keith A. Sheets was next to receive *Privilege of Floor*. He expressed concern over a pile of trash that has been on private property in the 600 block of Fourth Avenue. The City Solicitor responded that this property was discussed in a recent meeting with the Code Enforcement Officer and it is being addressed.

Mr. Jerry Rusk asked to speak next. He thanked the Commissioners for providing a nice set-up for the bass fishing tournaments held on the riverfront. He said that he hoped that the new layout and construction would not interfere with or discourage participation in those events. Forty to fifty vehicles with boats in tow must come down the bank, park, register, go back around the loop, launch their boats, and then park their vehicles again. He was worried that the new plan looked like it might eliminate some of the larger-sized parking spaces. In discussion, he was invited to look at the plans and was shown where additional parking was being provided. The Commissioners and City Manager all expressed their desire to

desire to accommodate and encourage these fishing tournaments. Mr. Greene said that construction should be timed to have minimal impact on these events.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Mr. Bostic went to Columbus last week for the historical preservation class and attended the food truck event.
- Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Landers, Mr. Lynch, and he attended the Mayor's Partnership for Progress in Athens on August 13, 2015. In response to Mr. Greene's questions during the roundtable discussion, the mayors offered suggestions and encouragement for some of the issues we are facing with budget concerns. The invited speakers talked about the Ohio Open Checkbook program, which is now being made available for local governments to use as a tool to provide transparency in their own expenditures.
- There was a public hearing on the riverfront project this evening prior to the Commission meeting.
- The car show held in the City Park on Saturday, August 8th, attracted a large crowd and was a great success.
- The pool closed for the season on Sunday, August 16th.
- The State Route 588 Slip Repair project will begin soon. Ms. Sprague is still waiting to receive the signed contract back from the contractor.
- Our sanitation provider, Waste Management, cannot take mattresses or upholstered furniture unless it is encased in plastic.
- The WWTP Administration Building is currently under construction. Work has speeded up quite a bit.
- The recreation department is working on changes to the charges and forms for reserving the parks.

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

Ms. Landers presented a list of delinquent water/sewer accounts to certify to the County Auditor. She explained that she sent letters to everyone in April. More recently, she telephoned everyone who had not responded. If anyone pays before she submits the list, she will remove their name. Mr. Cremeens mentioned that the Westwood apartments are being closed down. They are on our water system. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the list for certification to the County Auditor, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

As a follow-up to discussions at the recent work session, Ms. Landers provided information on when and where the townships covered under our fire contracts hold their meetings. Clay meets the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at their Townhouse on Lovers Lane. Addison meets the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at their Townhouse on Honeysuckle Lane, off State Route 7 N. Green meets on the second Monday of each month in the GAHS teachers' lounge (gym entrance) at 6 p.m. Gallipolis meets also on the second Monday at 7 p.m. in the Gallia County Courthouse second floor meeting room. Clay, Addison, and Green all have 2 mill fire levies. Gallipolis Township does not have a fire levy, but could have their fee based on what a 2 mill levy would bring in. Mr. Cremeens suggested that the Commission should have a discussion to determine what we would want to include in the new fire contracts. President Wallis spoke of the challenges the City is experiencing with the cuts in revenues from the State. He explained that our quest is to meet with the trustees and see if we can come to an agreement to receive 100% of the fire levies to be placed in the fire levy fund for the operation of the fire department. This plan would put everyone on a level playing field.

Ms. Landers provided each Commissioner with a spreadsheet of sanitation rates and administrative costs. This is an attachment that should have gone out with Ordinance O2015-34, which is on tonight's agenda for first reading.

The City Solicitor thanked those in the Police, City Manager, and Auditor departments who assisted with preparing the 5,500 pages of discovery issues that were due recently. He also went over some items discussed at the August 17th meeting with Code Enforcement. Some of the properties discussed included:

- 600 block of First Ave (from *Privilege of Floor*)—Evidently the property owner evicted the tenant and unloaded the contents out onto the curb on a day that was not a trash pick-up day, so it sat there for a long time.
- 754 Fourth Ave & 75 Cedar Street are continuing on the process of eminent domain. Notices and publication is complete to all interested parties. Now we must get the properties appraised and bring back to the Commission before proceeding.
- Other properties they are working on include: 338 Second, 1627 Eastern, 106 Vine, 107 Bastiani, 28 Smithers, 1620 Chatham, 1313 Eastern, 360 Second, and 326 Second.

President Wallis thanked staff for jumping in and helping the Solicitor's Office.

Mr. Cremeens told the other Commissioners that he had received a letter and a newspaper article from a former resident, Mrs. Humphries, concerning Main Street Medina (close to Cleveland) and her hope that Gallipolis could revive our own downtown through a similar project. Ms. Landers said that she had visited the website and found it had many user-friendly features, such as maps of downtown business and entertainment venues and detailed listings of events. Mr. Cremeens added that Medina used to have thirteen vacancies in their downtown and now they are down to one.

Mr. Johnson updated the Commission on economic development in the downtown. River City Leather is now open, with their grand opening planned soon. The Colony Club plans to open in September. A lady is looking for a site for a restaurant, possibly the Nybble Café.

Related to recouping costs for events, Mr. Johnson asked if everyone was being charged for moving the stage. He asked that everyone be charged impartially. Mr. Greene explained that this is why they are re-visiting what we are charging for the use of the park for overtime for police protection, trash pick-up, and other services the City provides. Currently we charge \$35 to move the stage.

President Wallis spoke about the work session that the Commission held on August 8th. Those attending toured GDC, Airport Road (future joint drainage project between the City County, and State), WWTP, 588 Slip, Hedgewood/Oakwood Drive slip issue, and Henkle Avenue (vacant property). Following the tour, we returned for a brainstorming session. The first session lasted about 6 hours. Future sessions should be able to be kept to around two hours.

Mr. Gallagher commented on the Mayor's Partnership meeting. He was particularly pleased with the time that the mayors took to talk with us about Gallipolis' issues, a topic that we introduced for discussion.

Mr. Gallagher suggested re-instituting the practice, begun by Mr. Finney, of supplying a calendar of events to the Commissioners. He would also like to be informed of incidents so that he and the other Commissioners can answer questions from concerned residents. Everyone agreed that the calendar was a good idea, but the problem is gathering the data to go into it. This is probably the reason why it was discontinued after such a short time.

Mr. Johnson asked how the public hearing on the river front project went. President Wallis said it went well. The bid packet will go out in February or March, with construction phase expected to begin in May with the amphitheater (Phase 1) to be followed by Phase 2. Mr. Greene will make sure the slide of the timeline is sent to the Commissioners.

As a final comment, the revitalization legislation will be going on the agenda in September, to be in place by September 30th when the State's regulations go into effect.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2015-33 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

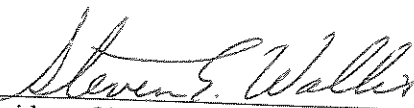
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2015-34 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING RATES FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FOR EACH RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an ordinance no. O2015-35 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2007-54, AS AMENDED BY O2013-02, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENTS FROM WATER, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, AND SANITATION FUNDS OF GALLIPOLIS TO THE GENERAL, M & R STREETS, WATER, AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUNDS OF GALLIPOLIS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED**. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2015-36 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2015-16, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2015-24, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2015-29, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission