

September 8, 2015

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, September 8, 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
- Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Vice-President
- Michael W. Brown, Member
- 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
- Josh Wellington, 93.1 WNTD Radio
- Ronnie Lynch David McCoy Jon Lynch
- Marvin Vanderberg Mary Lee Marchi Marvin Ours
- Randy Breech Mike Fulks Janet Johnson
- B. G. Johnson Christi Johnson Lori Bailey

President Wallis opened the floor for nominations for a City Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Cremeens. Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Mike Fulks, seconded by Mr. Tony Gallagher. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gallagher to make the argument for his nominee. On Mr. Gallagher's objection to the question, Mr. Johnson went on to say that the face of the board needs to change, that we need progression and change. Mr. Johnson questioned Mr. Brown's motives in appointing someone he is competing with on the fall ballot, observing that by doing so, he is eliminating one of his competitors, thus improving his own chances of winning a seat. He also objected to spending an hour at the last meeting discussing hundreds of dollars while stepping over thousands. Mr. Gallagher countered that Mr. Fulks is still on the ballot and therefore will be running for one of the two seats up for election this fall. If he wins, then he will serve the four-year term that he is elected to, vacating this seat once again to be filled by the Commission in January. Mr. Brown explained that he nominated Mr. Fulks rather than Mr. Jacks because Mr. Fulks was first to put in his petition for office. He and President Wallis both stressed that he felt that the nomination should go to someone who had already expressed a desire to serve by running in the election.

Mr. Gene Johnson asked if he could speak. President Wallis instructed that this was not the time for comments from the floor (because the Commission was in discussion of a motion on the floor). Mr. Gene Johnson interjected that Mr. Fulks had told him prior to the meeting that he did not wish to be appointed. President Wallis asked Mr. Fulks if he would serve if appointed. Mr. Fulks affirmed that he did not wish to start off in a big controversy. He stated that he had no agenda in seeking office other than to do some good for the town that he had served in his thirty-four years of employment. Commissioner Johnson assured him that it was okay. When pressed again on whether he would accept the position, Mr. Fulks said that he would. Upon voice vote on the motion to appoint Mr. Fulks to the vacancy on the Commission, Mr. Johnson voted no. Mr. Brown, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Wallis voted yes. Motion carried.

The City Solicitor administered the oath of office to Mr. Fulks, and he was seated at the table with the rest of the Commissioners.

The City Manager noted vacancies on the Sinking Fund Board. He said that Mr. David C. Evans, whose term expired on December 31, 2014, has agreed to serve another four-year term. Mr. Tom Wiseman has indicated an interest in serving out the term of Ms. Carolyn Wasch, who has moved from town. Her term ends on December 31, 2016. Ms. Barbara Wallen, whose term ended on December 31, 2013, could not be reached, but is assumed to be interested in serving another term.


Mr. Salisbury instructed that the motion for all three could be combined as one motion. Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint to the Sinking Fund Board Mr. David C. Evans to a term ending 12/31/18, Mr. Thomas E. Wiseman to the term ending 12/31/16, and Ms. Barbara Wallen to the term ending 12/31/17, motion seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he was very upset about the issue on the ballot to legalize the use of marijuana. He showed a copy of the ballot language, reading excerpts. He emphasized that he was totally against this as an individual, not as a Commissioner.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to enter executive session for pending legal matters and purchase and selling of property, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to enter executive session to discuss legal matters, all votes were yes. President Wallis announced that there would be no business to follow executive session. Upon conclusion of executive session, Commission returned to special session.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission