

November 15, 2011

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, November 15, 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                      Jon Lynch                      Tony Gallagher  
 Janet Wetherholt                  Marvin Vanderberg              Clint Patterson  
 Sue Wise                              Mary Lee Marchi                J. Frank Hamilton  
 Bob Condee                          Bette Horan                      Fred Holmes

Commission received the minutes of the November 1, 2011 regular and special meetings prior to this meeting. Mr. Johnson questioned whether the number of loads (for the Justice Center) was correctly noted in the minutes. Mr. Finney affirmed that the number was correct. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

*Privilege of Floor* was granted to Mr. Fred Holmes of Volunteer Energy Services. He presented a check to the Commission for \$3,631.26 for community reinvestment for the period from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. President Cozza thanked Mr. Holmes for the contribution and for the savings our residents receive from this program. Mr. Holmes gave a little background on the City's natural gas aggregation program.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- FEMA disaster team: They are submitting estimates for several of our projects: the old cemetery road, new cemetery road, Hedgewood Drive, and top of Mound Hill. They will be leaving town on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Street paving – Striping will be completed when weather allows.
- Justice Center – The footers have mostly been poured, but the weather is still delaying work somewhat.
- Mr. Finney will be attending an OVRDC meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. He invited Commissioners to go with him.
- New Administrative Offices – Mr. Finney distributed prints of the new proposed layout. He said that the size of the building has increased to 50' x 116'. There are plans for public restrooms, with outside access, on the alley end of the building. In discussion, the Commission requested

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that Panich & Noel design the exterior of the building. Mr. Finney added that all of the department heads have approved the new layout.

- The City has until December 7<sup>th</sup> to submit a petition for a spirituous liquor designation for the upper end of Eastern Avenue. This will allow for placement on the March 2012 primary ballot. Mr. Johnson made a motion to go forward with the effort to obtain this designation, seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- The Rotary Club in Middleport has requested a presentation about America in Bloom for Monday at noon.
- Mr. Finney will be on vacation November 28<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Woodall will be covering for him.
- Mr. Finney requested executive session.
- H. Christian Scott was recommended for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to appoint Mr. Scott to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. There is also a vacancy on the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Commission briefly discussed renewal of the township fire protection agreements. They asked Mr. Finney to invite the trustees to the next Commission meeting.

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

Ms. Landers announced that LEAP funding for the performance audit for the City has been approved by the State. The estimated cost will be \$75,000, plus \$7,500 for additional evaluation one year after completion of the audit. They have requested input on the scope of the audit, which Ms. Landers provided for the Commissioners. She asked them to review the scope and get back to her by Thursday with any changes. She also emphasized that the Commission must be willing to follow agreed upon recommendations in order for any savings to be realized from the audit. She commended the Commission for taking a proactive approach to dealing with challenging economic times.

Mr. Johnson said that he was approached by a couple of Elks members who were concerned about the state of the flag on Mound Hill. Mr. Finney said that the flag had become shredded and was replaced just prior to Veterans Day. The work on the flag pole is complete, so this should help in keeping the flags in better condition for a longer period of time.

Mr. Johnson talked about the Strategic Planning Committee's goals for Gallipolis City development, one of their four focus areas. There are four goals, which are being further broken down into tasks and strategies. The first goal is to establish a riverfront entertainment facility/amphitheater in downtown Gallipolis. Goal #2 is to establish a family activities recreation center in Gallipolis. Goal #3 is to develop a strategy to revitalize the Gallipolis downtown district. Goal #4 is to develop a strategy to increase the quality and quantity of rental property in Gallipolis by July of 2012. At the first meeting, they focused on the first goal. Last night, they focused on revitalizing downtown. They are looking into questions of why businesses left the downtown. They plan to survey building owners to find out how they are marketing their facilities. They are particularly interested in marketing to small businesses and entrepreneurs. He talked about efforts in other towns to market to groups of artists, etc. At the next meeting, all four focus groups will get together to discuss progress.

Mr. Tony Gallagher requested permission to speak. He praised Mr. Johnson for working very hard behind the scenes to get this thing rolling. Mr. Johnson said he appreciated the kind words, but that others have really stepped in to get the ball rolling.

Mr. Cremeens asked about a culvert on Hedgewood Drive that is full of brush. Mr. Finney will check into this.

President Cozza asked about where the City is on enforcement of the sign ordinance. Mr. Finney will inquire to see if the letters have been sent out. He also told Mr. Finney that there is a vacant house in the 900 block of Second Avenue near Wilcoxon's Chiropractic that has vermin (raccoons) living in it.

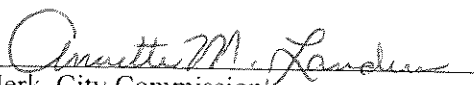
There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2011-106 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012.** Mr. Cremeens made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.


There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2011-107 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH GALLIA COUNTY FOR EQUIPMENT AND LABOR.** Mr. Wallis made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon roll call to suspend the rules and adopt this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2011-108 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR ASPHALT, LIMESTONE AND BEDDING SAND.** Mr. Cremeens made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon roll call to suspend the rules and adopt this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

Commissioners discussed community investment contributions. They received letters from all of the organizations that normally receive funding. The only other entity that has approached the City was United Way. The City received \$84,754.88 from the bed tax this year. There will be an ordinance at the next meeting concerning this.

Mr. Wallis made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel (fire department and City employee wages), property (McGhee property), and legal (lawsuit) issues as set forth in ORC Section 121.22(G)(1), (2), & (3), seconded by Ms. Bailey. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes. President Cozza announced that there would be no business following executive session. Upon completion 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