

August 7, 2012

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gallipolis Municipal Courtroom on Olive Street, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

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

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 James A. Cozza, Member
 W. Matthew Johnson, 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
 Brent Saunders Marvin Vanderberg Joy Elliott
 Keith Elliott Dottie Chestnut Clint Patterson
 Marvin Ours Jordan Shaffer

Commission received the minutes of the July 17, 2012 meeting prior to this meeting. Mr. Wallis pointed out a mistake on the day in the opening paragraph. There being no other corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved as corrected.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- June 30th storm damage – Mr. Finney has collected data on the storm damage, which can be submitted to FEMA for credit if they get funding.
- Slip on 800 block of First Avenue – All work is completed now and the road is re-opened to traffic. Supreme Asphalt did the paving and Boone Coleman the construction.
- Mound Hill Road – The drawings are due in tomorrow on old Mound Hill Road. Mr. Finney has been informed that the cost estimate will be more than FEMA originally estimated, but it should still be approved because FEMA's estimate was too low.
- Temporary Mound Hill Access Road – Mr. Finney submitted more documents this week. All of the paperwork for the appeal must be turned in to FEMA by their August 13th deadline.
- Elm Alley – We are still waiting for AEP to do their portion. Although the work was requested in June, AEP was delayed by storm repairs, which diverted their efforts elsewhere.
- WPC Plant Upgrade – Mr. Finney will be attending a meeting on Friday at 1 p.m. with OWDA in Columbus to talk about funding.
- Justice Center – The sidewalks and porch are going in this week. The paving out back will be done next. The inside of the building is almost done, with finishing touches being made to painted areas and flooring. The Commission needs to set a date and time for an open house.
- Thomas Clothiers Building – Two quotes were submitted for the work on the adjoining walls. One was for \$13,880 and the other for \$19,500 for the DLB side. One was for \$500 for the BTS side. This work needs to be done as soon as possible to mitigate further damage. We will need to move money around from other lines until an emergency appropriation can be approved.

Mr. Finney said that Police Chief Patterson had two candidates to recommend as Reserve Officers with the Gallipolis Police Department: Mr. Jordan Shaffer and Mr. Casey Clary. Chief Patterson said that both men have received training. Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint Mr. Jordan Shaffer and Mr. Casey Clary as Reserve Officers, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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

Ms. Landers told the Commissioners that Mr. Max Uhl, lead auditor for the City's performance audit, has asked that we direct any questions we have to him prior to meeting with us at 6 p.m. on September 4th. Ms. Landers provided Mr. Uhl's e-mail address and affirmed that the meeting is not public since this meeting is to discuss their draft report, not their final report. The State Auditors have directed that this meeting is not public.

The City Solicitor told the Commissioners that Code Enforcement recently gave him twenty-four code violations to file in court.

Mr. Salisbury presented a draft of changes to the golf cart ordinance. He explained that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to include a complete list of possible variances to ORC that might be requested. Because of this, it seemed better to word the amendment to leave the approval and issuance of variances at the discretion of the Police Chief, as lead public safety officer. Mr. Wallis asked if this would open the City to civil liability or create an unfair burden for the Chief and his successors. Chief Patterson spoke in favor of allowing small variances from ORC and stated that he was comfortable in making those decisions. Mr. Salisbury will bring the amended ordinance to the next meeting. Chief Patterson said that the stickers are due in this week. As soon as they come in, we can begin following the ordinance as it is presently written to approve golf carts. Anyone needing a variance will need to wait to have their golf cart approved when the ordinance is amended to allow for variances.

The City Manager received a letter from residents on the 800-block of First Avenue, asking to have a sign installed to bar truck traffic on that stretch of the road. Mr. Finney said that he has already responded to the letter by requesting that the Garage Superintendent order and install a "No Trucks" sign. He added that there is very little truck traffic on First Avenue. Most of the time, trucks remain on the state route, but some end up missing the turn onto Second Avenue from Vine Street. Those usually make it back onto Second Avenue via State Street.

Commissioners continued their discussion of geese in the park. Mr. Finney said that he has learned that there is a material that can be sprayed onto the grass that is distasteful to geese, but non-toxic to humans or animals. Chief Patterson said that some communities have set up feeding stations away from the area where geese are not wanted. This can be used to train the geese to congregate elsewhere. Mr. Johnson said that he has been walking his dog at the park in the evenings. His dog has been fairly effective in chasing the geese away for short periods of time. This actually is recommended as one way to make an area unattractive to geese, if consistently applied for a period of time. ODNR can also issue special permits to kill geese, but that would be a last resort. Mr. Finney plans to discuss the problem further with the ODNR.

Mr. Wallis commented that after reading the list of possible demolitions to perform under the Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant, he agrees with Mr. Cozza's concern, expressed at the last meeting.

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Mr. Wallis asked the City Manager for a report on any progress with supplying water to Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC). Mr. Finney reported that an engineer came down from Columbus to help with the project. GDC has cancelled three meetings so far that were set up with them to discuss the project. Mr. Finney said that he will continue to try to meet with them to move the project forward.

Mr. Wallis asked about the Issue 1 meeting, which was announced in the Commission packets. Mr. Finney said that the City will not be attending this year or submitting any projects for consideration. He has discussed the matter with our Projects Coordinator and they have both reached the conclusion that, with all of the other projects underway, the City does not have the funds available to commit to a 50% match on anything else. We will look at where we are next year to decide whether to apply for funding then.

Mr. Finney told the Commissioners that he must replace the street sweeper soon. Funding for this replacement is in the current budget and is getting critical because of increasing problems with our current sweeper.

Mr. Brown asked about a letter on the sale of Gallipolis Island, which was included in the Commission packets. The sale has been placed on hold until the other owner agrees to sell his share of Gallipolis Island unencumbered. He is currently demanding to retain mineral rights. The City of Gallipolis remains ready and willing to sell our share of the island for the offered price. The problem is that the U.S. Government is unable to buy partial ownership of Gallipolis Island or any other property. Their offer will be open until May of 2013, should the other owner change his mind and agree to the sale.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission