

June 23, 2015

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, June 23, 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
Michelle L. Clonch, Asst. City Auditor/Clerk
Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
Ronnie Lynch Mary Lee Marchi Clinton Patterson
Terry McKinniss M T Blaine Michelle Blaine
Beverly Dunkle Marvin Vanderberg Meagan Barnes
Janet Johnson Bill Gene Johnson Randy Breech
Brett Bostic Susan Grady Christi L. Johnson

Commission received the minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Beverly Dunkle with Gallipolis in Bloom. Ms. Dunkle thanked the commission for attending the luncheons and sessions while the judges were in town. She requested for her and Kim Canaday to attend the symposium this year and requested that the City cover their hotel and reservation expenses and they would cover any other costs themselves. Ms. Dunkle also mentioned that Gallipolis in Bloom was in the Southeastern Ohio magazine February edition and there was an article on local business Envy Ink in the summer issue. Ms. Dunkle reported that Riversweep was held on Saturday with help from the local boy scouts, community service workers, and Gallia Soil and Water.

Next to address the commission was Mr. Terry McKinniss, along with M. T. Blaine and Michelle Blaine, all residents of Hedgewood Drive. Mr. McKinniss was there to express his concerns about a slip behind their residences. There are trees and rocks that have broken loose on the Oakwood Drive support bank. The slip is so severe that it is in their back yards, moving close to the residences. He was there to ask to commission for advice and resources they may have for funding to fix the problem. Mr. Blaine and Ms. Blaine stated that they had moved there in March and it has slipped at least 50 feet since then and they had a contractor inspect the slip. The contractor would not touch it because of fear of liability to his company. The City Manager said that he and the County Engineer looked at the slip and it would be at least a million dollar project to fix the damage. Mr. Wallis stated that there is nothing the City could do except try to get them some contact information of who could possibly help them because it is private property. Mr. Greene agreed to get them some phone numbers to FEMA or any other contacts that may be of help.

Ms. Meghan Barnes addressed the commission next concerning the Kerr Fountain and the Bandstand in the Gallipolis City Park that need a tremendous amount of work. She knows that the City does not have the funds for the upkeep of these historical monuments. Ms. Barnes said there is a group that has come together to raise the money for repairs to both the fountain and the bandstand. Ohio Valley Bank

will be handling the donations and that money will be given to the City to complete the repair work. They will have a kickoff for the fundraising on July 3rd at 6:00 at the fountain. Mr. Wallis thanked Ms. Barnes and said that the City will do anything they can to help.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Maintenance Garage – City crews have been paint striping, put in crosswalk on Second Avenue by the park, and ordered new restroom sign for the public bathrooms.
- He was made aware that the water fountains in the City Park were turned off due to people turning them on and leaving them on, he suggested putting a push button on the fountains that will automatically turn the water off.
- State Route 588 Slip – bid was awarded last week to Geotech in the amount of \$109,000 which the County is handling.
- The City is working on getting properties cleaned up throughout the City.
- Riversweep was held and the maintenance workers picked up all the debris that was collected.
- Ohio River Live was rained out and will be rescheduled at a future date, possibly in October.
- City Park electrical upgrade – paperwork is being sent in this week for reimbursement.
- Stan Evans Wealth Management is sponsoring a shred day on Saturday and anyone is welcome to bring three boxes or bags to be shredded

The Asst. City Auditor presented the May 2015 Financial Statement for approval. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to approve the May Financial Statement, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor reported that he, the City Manager, and the Code Enforcement Officer have been meeting the past couple of weeks and wanted to talk about some things they have been discussing. They want to streamline the process to recover costs of abating nuisances. They would like to change the ordinances so the Code Enforcement Officer can write tickets for things such as high weeds, unsafe sidewalks, illegal signage, etc., and would have an appeal process in place. There was some discussion on the process of warnings and how the tickets would be processed. In their meetings, they also discussed properties with active code violations that are ongoing that may be candidates for eminent domain. One of the properties that has been identified is at 754 Fourth Avenue, the old Last Chance Carryout. This property is dangerous, in need of attention, and they have not been able to contact the owners of the property. The eminent domain process is not a fast process, but the end result would be the City abating the nuisance and the property being put up for auction. The other property they are looking at is 75 Cedar Street. Mr. Salisbury will get the commission more information on the eminent domain process. Lastly, the City has received requests from citizens to change our ordinance to allow golf carts in the 35mph zone. This would allow those with golf carts to be able to drive up Eastern Avenue to places such as Walmart. The State has signed a law to allow golf carts in the 35mph zone, which takes effect January 2017, but we can change our ordinances anytime we want to. Mr. Greene said he would like to try it and see if it works. If it becomes a problem, then we can change it.

Mr. Johnson said that Ohio River Live will be rescheduled and they may take over the Chilifest and have one big event. This event could possibly be in October and he will share information as he gets it. He also reported that a manhole cover had come loose and separated and a gentleman in a truck hit it and almost took out an electrical pole which left damage to his truck. Mr. Johnson asked if there was something they could do to help the gentleman out. Mr. Greene said they now have a new cover on the manhole. Mr. Johnson also had a report that the police were called to the Our House museum on Saturday evening and the interaction was not amicable and asked the City Manager to check into that situation. Later in the meeting, Mr. Gallagher said that the City Manager had talked with the lady at Our House about the situation, and she was satisfied with how she was treated. Mr. Johnson also talked about the legislation he had been mentioning concerning the downtown revitalization district; and he read a house bill from the

State on this subject that he received though email. He said the state is getting on top of this, concerning historic districts and funding for revitalization.

Mr. Brown said he had people ask about State Route 141 and Portsmouth Road and if there was a way we could get help with that road. Mr. Greene said he is working with the State on that.

Mr. Wallis informed the commission that there is a historic preservation and planning committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. prior to the next commission meeting on July 7, 2015. He also reported that the Emergency Action Plan has been completed for the 4th of July festival and thanked Clint Patterson for getting that done.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2015-28 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT AND STATE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ACT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT IF THE GRANT IS AWARDED.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. There was discussion on the grant and Mr. Salisbury explained the grant to the commission. He told them that the Victims Advocate deals with 350-400 cases per year. The grant money has been the same since 2001/2002 and the state has extra money this year and this is the time to ask for an increase. He suggested to pay the assistant solicitor from the grant funding which would help with an increase of services to victims from an attorney to help with the protection order process and property settlement agreements and streamline the process. There will be an increase in match money, the City's share is 10% and the County's is 10%, but we will be saving money from the general fund with the assistant solicitor's salary coming from the grant. 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.

Asst. Michelle L. Clonch
Clerk, City Commission

Steven E. Wallis
President, City Commission