

January 17, 2017

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Tony Gallagher called the meeting to order. Mr. Wallis gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Albert "Tony" Gallagher, President  
 Michael C. Fulks, Vice-President  
 Roger P. Brandeberry, Member  
 W. Matthew Johnson, Member  
 Steven E. Wallis, Member

Others attending were:

M. Eugene Greene, City Manager  
 Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor  
 Annette M. Landers, Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer  
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune  
 Ronnie Lynch                      Randy Breech                      Marvin Vanderberg  
 Mary Lee Marchi                  Jeff Boyer                              Keith Elliott  
 Joy Elliott

Commission received the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Maintenance Department has been busy working on water leaks, sewer problems, and fixing pot holes. There have been no major water leaks in the last couple of weeks, but winter is a busy time.
- The Water Plant is getting cost estimates to have a couple of wells cleaned this year.
- The Sewer Plant is running well. We are still negotiating with the engineering firm on billing for a change order.
- At the Mayor's meeting last week, several other municipalities expressed interest in our vacant building ordinance. They are also experiencing problems with drug and other criminal activity in their vacant buildings.
- The Park Board has had two meetings concerning the request for a splash pad in the City Park. The vote was 4 to 1 against locating it in the City Park, though all agreed that it would be a great idea for another location. The group was informed that they could take their request on appeal to the Commission.
- There have been a couple of meetings on the code/fire inspections. Also, some contractors have expressed interest in purchasing the lots and building new housing on the vacant lots that the City is in the process of acquiring.
- The Police Department has been very busy lately with break-ins of cars and buildings. These seem to be mostly drug related. This, added to the growing load of drug problems, thefts, transports, and court time are all adding stress on short staffing and budget woes. We are seeing an increase in crime related to our under-funded department. This was predicted months ago

when we first went out for the additional income tax levy. Chief Boyer added that the cruiser that was totaled in a crash will need to be replaced. Unfortunately, it was one of the newer vehicles. Mr. Brandeberry suggested that it would be a good idea to meet with the new judge and get his cooperation in managing prisoner costs where feasible. President Gallagher asked if bricks were being lobbed through car windows, as he had heard. Chief Boyer answered that they were not. Most of the break-ins involved unlocked vehicles. He warned residents to lock their vehicles.

- The first draft of the 2017 budget was distributed to Commissioners tonight. So far, cuts have included a sludge truck for the sewer plant, postponement of the new fire truck to a later year, and the possibility of dropping the baseball/softball program, turning the management of the program (as well as surplus equipment) over to sponsors. This would free Mr. Bostic to concentrate more time on Code Enforcement. We have also let one part-time employee position go unfilled.

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

Ms. Landers presented the following invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$4,179 from CT Consultants for WWTP Improvements. Invoice: 11/16/16. PO: 12/30/16
- \$8,333.33 from OPWC for debt service on loan. Invoice: 11/16/16. PO: 12/2/16
- \$5,624.45 from Ohio BWC for monthly premium. Invoice: 12/23/16. PO: 1/3/17
- \$20,851.11 from Waste Management for December refuse. Invoice: 1/1/17. PO: 1/3/17

Mr. Brandeberry made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers detailed the changes to the temporary appropriations included in tonight's agenda. These include the removal of two trees (Shade Tree & City Park Tree Fund), purchase of a cruiser from LE Trust Fund forfeiture money donated by County Prosecutor, and remainder of two projects (ODNR Parkfront and WWTP Upgrade) along with debt service on the Riverfront Project line of credit.

The City Solicitor said that he would be requesting executive session for pending lawsuits. He also talked about the 1% tax levy on tonight's agenda. It must be submitted to the Board of Elections by February 1<sup>st</sup>. The way it is currently written, it would include public safety, operations and capital expenses. Public Safety means the Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, and other public safety operations. There was some discussion of what "public safety" might be construed to mean as well as the advisability of removing "capital expenses" from the wording. Further discussions were delayed to the reading of the ordinance.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2017-02 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 1354 "VACANT PROPERTY AND BUILDING REGISTRATION" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2017-03 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE GALLIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR MAY 2, 2017, THE ISSUE OF A 1% LEVY ON INCOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENSES.** Mr. Wallis made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Brandeberry made a motion to amend the ordinance to remove all wording referencing "capital expenses," seconded by Mr. Fulks. Mr. Salisbury took a copy of the ordinance and read into the

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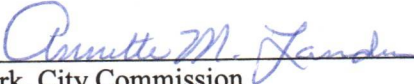
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record that "and capital expenses" and/or "as well as capital expenses" would be removed from the title and paragraphs 1, 2, 6, and the ballot language. Also removed from paragraph 2 is the wording "increase of 1% on the existing." The ballot language would be amended to read, "Shall the Ordinance providing for a 1% per cent levy on income for public safety operations be effective January 1, 2018 be passed? For the income Tax/Against the Income Tax." Upon voice vote to amend the ordinance as described, all votes were yes. Mr. Wallis made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brandeberry. President Gallagher expressed concern over running this on the ballot a third time. Mr. Greene posed the question that if we do not do so, how will we get the officers and equipment that we need? Upon roll call to adopt this amended ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2017-04 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2016-57, SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Wallis made a motion to enter executive session to discuss pending lawsuits, seconded by Mr. Brandeberry. Upon roll call to enter executive session for pending lawsuits, all votes were yes. President Gallagher announced 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.

  
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Clerk, City Commission

  
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President, City Commission