

February 7, 2012

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 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 President Jay Cremeens called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

James Jay Cremeens, President
 Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 James A. Cozza, 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		
Tony Gallagher	Clint Patterson	Marvin Vanderberg
Ronnie Lynch	Bette Null Horan	Phyllis Taylor
Tyson Hodges	Fred R. Holmes	Keith Elliott
Randy Breech	Jim Johnson	Bill Gene Johnson
Dean Mays	Kevin Plantz	Dottie Chestnut
John Allen	Angela Ferneding	Brad Harris
C. Mike Null	Robert L. Northup	Jonathan VanMeter

Commission received the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting prior to this meeting. Mr. Wallis said that the minutes should be corrected to read that the Commission did not agree that Saturday meetings would be better. There being no other corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved as corrected.

President Jay Cremeens opened the Public Hearing on an Electric Aggregation Plan. He invited Mr. Fred Holmes of Volunteer Energy Services to speak. Mr. Holmes told those present that this is the first of two public hearings required by PUCO. Municipalities that adopted an electric aggregation plan by November 2011 or earlier have until December 31, 2012 to implement that plan. He explained that everyone will have the opportunity to opt out of the program, if desired. He said that VESI will submit their mailing list to the City to assure that only residents receive mailings. At the next meeting, he will bring the price that customers will receive. The price will be for only the generation portion of their bill, not the distribution. He said that the number of people who opt out initially is usually around 5%. He is hoping to provide a three-year fixed cost for residents. The program would not include large industrial customers.

President Cremeens opened the second Public Hearing on the New Administrative Office Building design. Mr. Breech was invited to lead the discussion. He passed out drawings of the building and parking lot and talked about the materials to be used. He told those present that the construction should be completed shortly after completion of the Justice Center. There was extensive discussion of the public restrooms to be included on the alley-end of the new building. They will be well-lit, with a masonry interior and stainless steel fixtures to discourage vandalism. They will be locked at night. Mr. Brown stated that he would prefer to orient the main entrance to face Third Avenue. Mr. Breech said that the proposed placement of the building was designed to preserve the maximum number of parking places. Mr. Breech's estimate of the cost to construct the building and make the changes to the parking lot at State prevailing wages would be around \$600,000.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Mr. Marvin Vanderberg. He thanked the Commission for their support of the Neighborhood Watch Program. He said that he believed that the decals and signs that the City provided and their group placed throughout the City have contributed to a reduction of crime in those neighborhoods. He asked for the City's continued support.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- FEMA disaster team – We are still waiting for an answer back on all the projects but Hedgewood Drive. FEMA will participate on 200 feet of the 700 feet on Hedgewood Drive. Projected cost to do the entire project is \$1,000,000. Mr. Cozza asked if drainage from Oakwood could be contributing to the problem. Mr. Finney said that the curbs on Oakwood prevent that from being a problem. The City can appeal FEMA's decision not to cover 500 feet of Hedgewood Drive.
- Justice Center – With the good weather, work has been progressing well. The concrete is poured and the walls will go up next. Judge Evans has hired an architect to help with the interior design. This cost will be paid from the Court's special funds.
- Rt. 850 Lift Station – An insurance claim has been submitted for the lightning damage. There is a \$2,500 deductible on the policy.
- The Ohio Fish & Wildlife Refuge is still interested in acquiring the City's portion of Gallipolis Island. They plan to take measures to stop the erosion of the island. The island used to be about five acres. It has eroded over time to three acres. After a short discussion, Mr. Cozza made a motion to sell our portion of the island to Ohio Fish & Wildlife Refuge for \$1, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- McCormick Road Water Main break – The City issued a "boil water" advisory, which means water should be boiled vigorously for three minutes.
- OVRDC Fall Integrating Committee meeting – The Fourth Avenue Repaving Project was rated seventh. It will not receive funding unless some other projects withdraw.
- Fire Department ISO Rating – It is time to renew our ISO rating. There is a 45 page report to fill out that they will use to rate us. A good rating would help residents receive lower fire insurance premiums.
- Demolition of houses – The houses on Second and Third Avenue are in the process of demolition.
- Jail Issues – Female prisoners are no longer being housed at the Gallia County Jail. However, the Work Release Center still is accommodating females. We are currently using the Ross County Jail for our female prisoners, which requires additional transport time. The Middleport Jail should open about the second week of March.
- Virago is now eleven years old. A replacement dog has been ordered at a cost of \$7,000, plus \$3,000 for training.
- Digital River Project – Mr. Finney showed illustrations of the banners that they would like to display in the downtown area.
- Strategic Planning Committee – The full committee will meet on Monday, February 13th, at 6 p.m. They are discussing the possibility of having a consultant come in to make suggestions. Some of the Commissioners spoke favorably about this possibility.
- Mr. Finney plans to begin interviews soon for the Fire Chief position. The job has been posted.
- The Gallia County Community Foundation will meet tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in the Ohio Valley Bank Annex. They will be discussing lifestyle and culture in the downtown area.
- The Ohio City/County Management Association is having a 2-day conference in Columbus on February 22nd and 23rd. The cost of the conference is \$250. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Finney should attend.
- Electric rate hike – The City's electric rates have gone up astronomically. Mr. Finney showed a spreadsheet of the increases. He added that he is also concerned about the adverse effect on small business owners in our town. PUCO is getting many complaints about the increases. It is hoped that they will respond by providing some relief to those most affected.

- Mr. Finney reminded the Commissioners that we need to schedule a budget hearing.

The City Auditor presented the January 2012 Financial Statement for approval. Mr. Wallis made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Two invoices over \$3,000 were presented for approval of payment:

- \$18,448.71 from Waste Management for December 2011 refuse pick-up. Invoice date: 1/1/12. P.O. date: 1/3/12.
- \$5,354.14 for 1st Quarter 2012 IT Director salary. Invoice date: 1/17/12. P.O. date: 1/24/12.

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

Ms. Landers asked the Commissioners to approve the position descriptions for the Assistant Auditor/Clerk and Assistant Treasurer positions. She explained that the positions were created by the Commission in 2003, but the position descriptions were not revised at that time. The auditors need position descriptions for their performance audit. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the Assistant Auditor/Clerk position description, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Cozza made a motion to approve the Assistant Treasurer position description, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor reminded the Commissioners that the ordinance on tax filing on tonight's agenda moves some filers from monthly to quarterly filing.

Mr. Salisbury reported that he had looked into the legality of the \$1,000 membership fee that the Families & Children First Council is assessing. He said that he believes this fee would not be legal to charge to those members who are required by law to attend meetings, such as the City.

Mr. Salisbury and Ms. Fellure will be attending the OML Legal Training in Columbus on March 9th. Ms. Fellure will attend the criminal sessions and Mr. Salisbury will attend the civil sessions.

There was a meeting recently with the County Prosecutor concerning the effect of budgetary cutbacks in his office. Felony cases will be capped at 250 cases, which means that more misdemeanors will be filed instead. This will create a greater load for the City Solicitor and for Municipal Court.

Mr. Cozza volunteered to serve on the local Corrections Planning Board. Mr. Wallis made a motion to appoint Mr. Cozza to this board, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Manager told the Commission that during his presentation at the recent First Friday, he told those attending that the City needs to replace the pool slide. The cost to replace with a similar slide would run around \$50,000. The City is looking for grant money or donations to help with the cost.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading a Resolution No. R2012-01 entitled **EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE GALLIPOLIS CITY COMMISSION TO LORI F. BAILEY FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY TO HER.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this resolution on second reading, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2012-02 entitled **AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO**

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HOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. Mr. Cozza made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2012-02 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 181, INCOME TAX, SECTION 181.06(E), COLLECTION AT SOURCE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Lynch, the Tax Administrator was asked to explain the purpose of the ordinance. He explained that the ordinance was to change the voluntary nature of quarterly payment of withholding for small employers with less than \$100 in monthly withholding. The new wording would require them to file quarterly rather than monthly, thereby reducing the number of small deposits to be processed, especially through Ohio Business Gateway. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2012-03 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CERTAIN AMENDMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT AGGREGATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT (GAPA), DATED JANUARY 10, 2008.** Mr. Cozza made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Wallis stated that he must abstain from voting due to his employment with an electric energy provider. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, Mr. Wallis abstained. All other votes were yes. Ordinance O2012-03 was placed on first reading.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. 2012-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH JEANNIE INGLES FNP-BC FAMILY PRACTICE FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to suspend the rules, all votes were yes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on rules suspension on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on first reading on rules suspension, all votes were yes.

Commissioners discussed when to schedule a Budget Hearing. They decided to meet on Saturday, February 11th, at 4 p.m. President Cremeens requested an e-mail reminder.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission