

February 7, 2017

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 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
 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 Dottie Chestnut
 Mary Lee Marchi Jeff Boyer Claudia Miller

Commission received the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- ODOT plans to pave State Route 160 this year. The project will be 100% state funded.
- The Maintenance Department has been doing brush pick-up once per month. They removed the banners from the City Park. Crews have been repairing pot holes and water line breaks, as well as cleaning catch basins. There are plans to cut the street sweeper to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to extend the life of the sweeper and cut repair costs.
- The Code Enforcement Officer and Station Firefighter have been meeting on inspections and on-going projects in the City. Letters have gone out to contractors concerning renewal of their contractor's licenses for 2017.
- The Utility Billing Office has been working with CMI and the State Auditor's on their daily close-out procedures.
- The Police Department continues to be swamped. There were seven overdoses in the last few days, with one death and six saved.
- The Planning and Historical boards have met a couple of times on new structures in town. Mr. Rick Rose bought two lots that he plans to build duplexes on once demolition is complete. One is on Fourth Avenue and the other is in the 200 block of Third Avenue.
- The Sewer Plant has been getting excessive grease build-up at the new sewer plant. Our people are out checking grease traps, trying to determine when and how often they are being cleaned. We suspect that there was a large dump made into a manhole.
- The City Manager and City Auditor has been working on the budget and have got it within about \$70,000 of balancing, which sounds very bad until you compare it to the \$369,000 budget shortfall we addressed last year. Ms. Landers explained that the budget was in fairly decent shape until numbers were put in for the Court. However, the new judge has expressed a willingness to

work with us. We are hopeful of trimming enough in the next week to have a balanced budget ready for a public hearing and first reading on February 21st. Second reading will be on March 7th, with the budget going into effect 15 days thereafter. Commissioners indicated approval of that plan. Mr. Wallis asked that Mr. Greene and Ms. Landers inform the Commission if they are unable to find the needed cuts.

- Mr. Greene and Mr. Swisher met with the WWTP Improvements Project contractor and engineer to discuss project costs. They were able to negotiate \$225,000 in savings for the City.
- Mr. Lynch has been receiving news about a legislative change that the State is planning to make in the collection of business income taxes. They plan to include wording in the next budget bill requiring businesses to file their municipal taxes through the Ohio Business Gateway, with the State then retaining 1% of collections before remitting what is owed to the municipalities. According to Mr. Lynch, these taxes represent about 80% of our income tax collections. Mr. Lynch believes that this will pass this year. Mr. Greene is worried that remittances will be slow in coming and that the 1% initial charge will rise with no recourse for municipalities. Mr. Wallis asked that Mr. Greene speak to Representative Ryan Smith to voice our concerns.

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

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

- \$8,432 from the Gallia Co. Sheriff for prisoner housing. Invoice: 1/3/17. PO: 1/9/17
- \$4,353.75 from TRZ Business Services for Notify Now. Invoice: 1/16/17. PO: 1/19/17

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

The City Solicitor reported that he has filed the lawsuit to appropriate the property for the Last Chance Carryout. This will be our first such appropriation.

Mr. Salisbury spoke to the attorneys for the County concerning the Workers Comp claim. They sent an agreement, which he has reviewed. The County is saying that we can pick up the tractor as soon as everything is signed.

The Amsbary trial for code violations was held today. There were seven charges, with numerous supporting pictures submitted. The City tried to resolve the problems many times before taking it to court. The judge took the case under advisement.

Mr. Salisbury asked for the Commission's approval of his proposed Prosecutor's Diversion Program, which he introduced to the Commissioners at an earlier meeting. The program will only be available for low level traffic offenses. He stressed that this is not designed to be a court diversion program. The court will still collect their costs. However, offenders will be offered an on-line class at a cost of \$175. It will be timed and monitored in such a way as to assure that the person taking the class must take sufficient time to absorb the material, with tests embedded in the program. In addition to court costs, the Solicitor's Office and the testing company will each receive an administrative charge from the fees collected. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Prosecutor's Diversion Program, seconded by Mr. Fulks. On voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

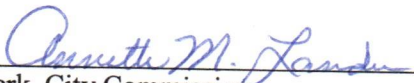
The City Solicitor will be conducting an in-service training at the Police Department on Monday, February 13th at 5 p.m.

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Mr. Johnson said that the Downtown Revitalization Project Group met and expressed their disappointment that they were not contacted and invited to the Planning meeting where the vote was taken on the splash pad. (Note: This was an open meeting, advertised through public media.) They plan to attend the next Commission meeting.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2017-05 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH CANADAY CARE LLC FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission