

March 2, 2021

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual regular session on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter and Emergency Ohio Sub House Bill 197.

Commission President Cody Caldwell called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Cody C. Caldwell, President (remote access)  
 Michael Fulks, Vice President (in person)  
 Michael W. Brown, Member (in person)  
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member (remote access)  
 T. Beau Sang, Member (remote access)

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)  
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (remote access)  
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)  
 Kayla Hawthorne, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)  
 Ronnie Lynch (in person)                      Marvin Ours (remote access)  
 Karen McCarty (remote access)              Jeff Boyer (remote access)  
 Whitney Vilfer (remote access)              Jonathan and/or Keith Elliott (remote access)

Commission received the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The 2021 Budget Hearing was opened. The City Manager gave a brief overview. He said that the department heads had submitted very reasonable requests for their departments, all of which were reviewed before submission in the budget. Ms. Landers informed Commissioners that the City Solicitor noticed an omission in her budget, which will require amendment before passage. One of her employee's salary was not transferred from the salary spreadsheet to the budget line, a \$32,935 understatement. This figure has been added to the budget review that the City Manager is providing.

Continuing, the City Manager stated that the Enterprise Funds remain in good shape. The General Fund's 2020 carryover was around \$380,000. This allowed us to incorporate all of the departments' needs into the 2021 budget. The overall 2021 Budget requests are around \$10,000,000. Overall funds from carryovers and estimated revenues conservatively stand at around \$13,000,000. The carryover for the General Fund will be at least \$43,000 at the end of 2021. The 2020 projected carryover for the General Fund was only \$8,000 when that budget was passed. We hope for more federal relief. Also, estimated revenues were understated to avoid the possibility of budget shortfalls.

The City Manager detailed some of the capital items in the budget (cruiser, computers, hotbox, skid steer, new roof for Water Treatment Plant, etc.), as well as some of the grants (paddle launch ramp, RCAP GIS system for Water, Sewer, and Storm systems, pool refurbishments, etc.). Mr. Sang endorsed conducting an analysis of rent versus buy when considering the purchase of capital equipment.

Mr. Lozier would like to schedule a work session soon to discuss goals, projects and areas of focus that Commissioners would like to set. Sale of the parking lot at the Justice Center to the County could allow funding of other projects. President Caldwell commended Mr. Lozier and staff for their COVID response. Rising healthcare costs continue to be a concern. Mr. Sang said that he has some interest in

Gallipolis City Commission

March 2, 2021

Page 2

sidewalk repairs and the equipment at Haskins Park. Mr. Lozier told Commissioners that the Code Enforcement Officer and City Solicitor have been continuing their work to address dilapidated properties.

Commissioners next discussed the 2020 review document that the City Manager had e-mailed to Commissioners. President Caldwell asked if this could be released for the public when Mr. Lozier has it ready in final form. Commissioners agreed that it was a very nice overview. Mr. Lozier explained that it was not meant to take away from the importance of the regular operations and other projects undertaken last year by the City's departments. He commended staff for their response to last year's challenges.

Several Commissioners joined in commending the snow removal crew. Discussion turned to flooding. The approach to the Vine Street Bridge has been closed. The Spruce Street Extension flood escape road has been opened. State Rt. 7 is closed in sections both north and south of Gallipolis. The school ballfield is flooded, as is the Public Use Area. The river is expected to crest at 46.4 feet sometime in the next few hours. Mr. Lozier concluded this discussion by adding that there have been some water leaks, but overall, the City is coping well.

There being no other questions, this concluded the 2021 Budget Public Hearing.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Mr. Lozier showed everyone the Black-headed vulture that the City ordered from the USDA for the pool. It cost \$250 for the permit, which comes with a set of guidelines to follow, and the mounted bird carcass.
- Holcomb Hill Road is experiencing some problems with run-off onto SR 141. City crews have been working on drainage, but drivers should be cautious of potentially icy conditions in that area.
- The Firefighters Dependent's Fund needs two Commissioners to be appointed for 2021. Mr. Sang and Mr. Fulks both said that they are willing to serve again this year. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to appoint Mr. Sang and Mr. Fulks to serve for the year 2021, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Auditor presented the following invoices over \$3,000:

- \$3,380 from Citco Water for annual Sensus Software support. Inv: 1/25/21. PO: 2/5/21.
- \$5,008.93 from AEP for January street lights. Inv: 1/29/21. PO: 2/1/21.

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

A list of January and February donations of \$3,303 to Gallipolis in Lights and \$200 for the Canine Cop Fund were presented for acceptance. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept these donations, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Mr. Sang said that a resident of Hedgewood Drive had conveyed his displeasure with how the City had repaired the road. The City Manager explained that millings were used. Mr. Fulks agreed that it is pretty rough because of the rain, but it was dressed up some today, which somewhat improved conditions. There is still a big pool of water. City crews have been working on water and sewer issues, but things will get better when the weather warms up.

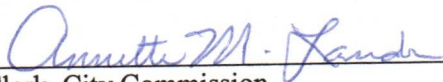
Ms. Landers asked that Ordinance O2021-03 be read as an emergency to allow for timely passage, as mentioned at the last meeting. There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2021-03 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER NO. 925.07(b),(1)(A) AND (2)(A), SEWERS, RATES, SEWER SERVICE CHARGES (INSIDE CITY AND OUTSIDE CITY), OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS,**

**OHIO.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Ms. Landers briefly listed the new rates and the impact on customers who are on both water and sewer. It will actually cost those customers a few cents less per month to have the water rates frozen and the sewer rates increased by 6% than to have had both water and sewer rates increased by 3%, as originally set by ordinance. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Regarding Ordinance No. O2021-04 (Budget ordinance), Ms. Landers stated that the sections that needed amending to increase by \$32,935 each are Section 6 (City Solicitor), Section 21 (General Fund Total), and Section 87 (Total All Funds). Mr. Fulks made a motion to amend Sections 6, 21, and 87 of Ordinance No. O2021-04, increasing by \$32,935 each, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes. There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading the amended Ordinance No. O2021-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO SET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this amended ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2021-05 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, City Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, City Commission