

May 5, 2015

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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, Interim City Manager		
Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor		
Michelle L. Clonch, Asst. City Auditor/Clerk		
Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune		
Ronnie Lynch	Mary Lee Marchi	Beverly Dunkle
Jeff Boyer	Keith A. Sheets	Karen Smith
Matt Champlin	Janet Johnson	Bill Gene Johnson
Ashton Berdine	Nathan Fetty	Adam Barrett

Commission received the minutes of the April 7, 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. Ms. Dunkle and Kim Canaday represented the City at the annual Tree City USA last Wednesday in Athens. She displayed the awards that were presented to the City to recognize our 20th year. Ms. Dunkle also brought an award that was presented to Gallipolis in Bloom by the Visitors Center for their work in the community.

Ashton Berdine and Nathan Fetty with the West Virginia Land Trust spoke about the Gallipolis Island. They are asking the City to donate the Island to the Fish & Wildlife Division. West Virginia Land Trust is working along with them to acquire the island for erosion control and restoration. The only stipulation is that the City agrees to keep ½ interest in the minerals on the south side of the island and agree to extend the restoration period to 7 to 10 years. Mr. Matt Johnson made a motion to donate the island to the Fish and Wildlife Division and to agree to the above stipulations, seconded by Mr. Mike Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Karen Smith spoke next concerning the trees along Second Avenue. She asked why these were cut down so drastically and if there were plans to replace the trees. The City Manager spoke and said that the City started having sewer problems along Second Avenue and found that the roots on the trees were plugging up the sewer and were starting to deteriorate the lines and busting up the sidewalks. He spoke with the store owners who agreed that the trees should be taken out because the store owner is responsible for any damage the tree would cause to the lines or sidewalks. Ms. Smith was concerned if there was an investigation into the types of trees planted and a solution to the problem. It was discussed that if a property owner wants to put a tree in they can but they have to sign a paper stating that they will be responsible for any damage to the lines and sidewalk. Mr. Johnson stated that he hopes when we renovate the riverfront that the landscaping we do down there transitions and finishes at the 300 block so there is cohesiveness with what is at the bottom of the riverfront to what is up at the top.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Garage has been busy with trash pickup, mowing, road repairs, getting the pool ready, and having guardrail replaced.
- The WPCF project is coming along and they are moving dirt.
- Jeff Boyer and he met with the State to put in a crosswalk at the 300 block of Second Avenue. They gave them the okay to do this.
- Some of the flower boxes have been delivered and put in place.
- Had meeting at 5:00 with Speedway along with the Planning Commission and accepted their preliminary plans.
- Damage to the parking lot at the WTP has been repaired that was caused by trucks for Toyota that came to get water during the WV water crisis. Toyota has reimbursed the City for this.

The City Manager informed the Commission that we are losing a police officer, Mr. Adam Barrett, and recommended keeping him on as a reserve officer. Mr. Jeff Boyer said that this is a good recommendation and that Mr. Barrett has put in 16 years with the City and does a good job. Mr. Cremeens made a motion to add Mr. Barrett to the reserve officer list, seconded by Mr. Mike Brown. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

Mr. Greene requested executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The City Manager had a recommendation to re-appoint Henrietta Evans to the Gallia Metropolitan Housing Authority Board. Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint Ms. Evans to the board, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. Upon voice vote for the board appointment, all votes were yes.

Ms. Clonch presented donations to Gallipolis in Lights, City Park Brick project, Baseball/Softball, and a park swing in memory of Bob Condee for approval:

1. \$2,780.00 for the month of January.
2. \$2,901.00 for the month of February.
3. \$850.00 for the month of March.

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

The Solicitor reported that he and Jeff Boyer had been discussing and would like to recommend an ordinance for businesses that take thing in trade such as coins, gold, scrap metals, etc. that would require the business to keep the items for a required length of time. It would prevent stolen property from being turned around and resold. The Commission thought it would be a good idea to put this in place.

Mr. Salisbury also requested executive session to discuss pending legal matters.

Mr. Johnson reported on events held in the City Park. The princess ball was very well attended and will probably be an annual event. The Gallipolis in Lights 5K will be Saturday, May 16th, hoping to have around 1,000 runners this year. Also, many things will be happening on June 20th with the Garden tour, Ohio River Live, and a bass tournament.

Mr. Johnson told Mr. Salisbury that someone had approached him and asked if the City had an ordinance that designates specific areas in the City of Gallipolis that is part of revitalization in regards to economic development. There may be benefits or monies into declaring a specific area. Mr. Salisbury said he would research this and let him know. After doing some research, he said that we do not.

Mr. Brown said that people had mentioned to him how bad Portsmouth Road is. Mr. Greene stated that he is going to get ahold of the State to discuss the issue with them.

Mr. Wallis asked Mr. Adam Barrett, who was not available during the privilege of the floor, if he would like to say anything. Mr. Barrett said that he was getting ready to switch jobs and thanked the City for the past 16 years and he appreciates all the City has done. Mr. Cremeens thanked Mr. Barrett and let him know he was an asset to our community and hates to see him go. The Commission appreciates his service and professionalism and wishes him the very best.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2015-05 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING EUGENE GREENE AS THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 16 & 17 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Cremeens made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon discussion, Mr. Johnson stated that on October 10, 2014 there was a special meeting to hire Mr. Greene as Interim City Manager. He said during that time it was discussed that the commission would meet and get their due diligence in the process of seeking a permanent City Manager. Mr. Johnson said that his problem with that has to do with the words "due diligence". They were supposed to meet as a group and examine and look for candidates and all five would work the process together and they have not done that. He said he has nothing against Mr. Greene and thinks he is doing an admirable job but the commission is not doing what they say they are going to do. Mr. Johnson recommended tabling the Resolution. Mr. Greene said he agreed and said that he wants the commission to do what is best for the City. Mr. Gallagher also agreed with Mr. Johnson and said that the commission had agreed to accept resumes and look at potential candidates. Mr. Greene said if they are going to advertise and get someone to not drag their feet because they have an 8 million dollar project going on and someone doesn't want to walk into the middle of that. Mr. Wallis stated that with budget constraints and having someone to fulfill the duties that we have a bargain going on. He said that we seem to be getting several favorable comments about Mr. Greene and he thinks that speaks volumes and that he doesn't think we need to fix something that isn't broke. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, Mr. Cremeens, Mr. Brown, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Wallis voted yes, Mr. Johnson voted no. Resolution R2015-05 is placed on first reading.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2015-23 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2014-71, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2015-04, AMENDING SECTION C6(i), COMPENSATION FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES, AND REPEALING PREVIOUS ORDINANCES SETTING SAID COMPENSATION.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cremeens. 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. O2015-24 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2015-16, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. 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. O2015-25 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2015-17, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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. O2015-26 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT, OHIO, FOR THE HOUSING OF PRISONERS.** Mr. Cremeens made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

Upon completion of executive session, there being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Asst Michelle L. Clonch
Clerk, City Commission

Steven S. Wallis
President, City Commission