

July 6, 2021

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 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 (in person)
Michael C. Fulks, Vice President (in person)
Michael W. Brown, Member (in person)
Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member (in person)

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)
Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (in person)
Shelly Clonch, Asst. City Auditor (in person)
Kayla Hawthorne, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)
Ronnie Lynch (in person) Randy Breech (in person)
Gene Greene (in person) Dottie Chestnut (in person)
Roma Wood (in person) Marvin Ours (remote access)
Claudia Miller (in person) Keith Elliott (remote access)
Whitney Vilfer (remote access) Lori Reynolds (remote access)
James Johnson (remote access)

Commission received the minutes of June 15 and June 28, 2021 prior to this meeting. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept the June 15 minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the June 28 minutes, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Roma Wood was recognized for privilege of floor to discuss a water bill from a former renter on Chillicothe Road. The bill was last paid in March and had four months of unpaid charges due to renter tampering. She stated that she paid the bill so the water would stay on. Ms. Wood suggested that rules need to be in place to prevent this from happening (owner being stuck with renter-tampered charges). Mr. Caldwell informed her that we do have an ordinance in place and that the property owner was responsible. City Manager Ted Lozier told Ms. Wood that we did turn the water off for non-payment and that the meter was tampered and turned back on. He also informed her that we cannot put locks on some of the meters. We are in the process of replacing these meters with meters that we will be able to lock. There was some discussion of giving priority to replacing rental unit meters.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- River Recreation Festival and First Friday went well and we received compliments on the park. Mr. Lozier credits the Maintenance Garage crew for their hard work.
- We have hired more lifeguards at the pool and it is working well. The pool will now start opening on Wednesdays.
- Last fall while ODOT was working on the 588 road slip repair, there was an issue with the right of entry on the Miller property. A right of entry was issued by the City. ODOT is now asking if the City would issue a perpetual easement for that right of entry that would allow for any future work that needs done. He will get more details and will go over it with the City Solicitor.

- A spreadsheet was given to each of the commissioners detailing an adjustment to employee pay tables and rates. Mr. Lozier said that this included premium pay that he had talked about prior. This premium pay would come from ARP monies that will be coming soon. This would give the employees a three year pay increase and could possibly remain after the three year period depending on City finances. He ran numbers and the total cost would run around \$53,000. The City should get \$200,000 to \$400,000 each year for the next two years from the ARP monies so we would still have plenty of funds for other things. This plan would reward the employees without a cost to the City. The premium pay would be across the board for all employees. The cost to the general fund for any pay ordinance or grade changes would only run around \$7,000.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the pool would do away with having two sessions and only have one session now since we had enough lifeguards. Mr. Lozier confirmed that it would now be one session.

President Caldwell was asked by a citizen that resides in the last house on SR 141 (by the cemetery) about hard rain washing down the hill. He was wondering if the City was aware of the problem and had any concern of the road washing away.

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

Ms. Clonch presented June donations for acceptance. These donations were to Gallipolis in Lights in the amount of \$575.00. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept the June donations, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

City Commissioners began discussions related to filling the position of City Manager. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to appoint Mr. Bill Jenkins as Interim City Manager. Mr. Jenkins has indicated his willingness to serve on a part-time basis. The motion died for a lack of second. President Caldwell recommended Chief Boyer as Interim City Manager. Mr. Fulks and Mr. Brown reported that they each had a couple of people who also might be interested in the position, some as interim and some as permanent. Mr. Fulks would like to have Mr. Lozier's input. There was interest in including the new Commissioners in these discussions. Commissioners need to discuss salary and benefits for the position. Mr. Brown made a motion to retain Mr. Ronnie Lynch as Acting City Manager, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Fulks mentioned that Mr. Lynch is currently a contractor, not an employee. Commissioners joined in thanking Mr. Lozier for his service as City Manager.

Mr. Brown commended the City workers on the park cleanup. He also mentioned concern about the 4th of July parade participants throwing candy from vehicles. He did not want to see any child get hit. The Chamber of Commerce needs to be reminded to warn parade participants that there is a law against distributing candy in this way.

Mr. Brown had a gentlemen ask about pit bulls at a neighbor's house. Ms. Noe will inform the police department about the issue. Mr. Brown also inquired about the status of R & R Pipeline. Mr. Lozier said that we have not seen or heard from them. They still need to repair some problems related to their earlier work.

Mr. Brown said that the Gallipolis Daily Tribune incorrectly reported that he made a statement about executive sessions. Mr. Jenkins was the one who brought up that topic.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2021-20 entitled **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 91-1, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE**

NO. 94-23, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 97-119, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 98-116, AND ESTABLISHING PAID HOLIDAYS FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this 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. O2021-22 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 712 "MOBILE FOOD VENDING" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading. The motion died for lack of second. City Solicitor Brynn Noe told Commissioners that she realized that the ordinance was extensive and to let her know of any changes that they want to see.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2021-21 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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