

August 3, 2021

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

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:

Ronnie Lynch, Acting City Manager (in person)
Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)
Gene Greene, Gallia County Commissioner (in person)
Kayla Hawthorne, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)
Bill Thomas (in person) Randy Breech (in person)
Bill Jenkins (in person) Dottie Chestnut (in person)
James W. Roush (in person) Claudia Miller (in person)
William K. Frazee (in person) Harry Nehus (in person)
Jeff Halley (in person) Marvin Ours (remote access)
Jeff Boyer (remote access) Steve Burnette (remote access)
JC with no further identification (remote access)

Commission received the minutes of July 20, 2021 prior to this meeting. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept the July 20th minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Mr. James W. Roush was recognized for *Privilege of Floor*. Mr. Roush told Commissioners that there is a sinkhole in his neighborhood on SR588. Mr. Grubaugh has looked at it and said that it is not on City property. The corrugated pipe is collapsing at the back of his and an adjacent property. Mr. Lynch said that the City Solicitor is investigating for any easement that the City might have that would allow us to perform repairs there.

Gallia County Commissioner Gene Greene was next recognized for *Privilege of Floor*. He said that the gentleman that rents a hangar at the airport is requesting water-only service because he stripped out his unheated bathroom some time ago. The County will eventually be upgrading the airport facilities, but in the meantime, he is requesting to have the charges for sewer services removed from his bill going forward. Ms. Landers asked Mr. Greene to call the water office with the account number. Mr. Greene agreed to do so tomorrow. President Caldwell asked if the County received money for the airport. Mr. Green responded that they received grant money. Discussion next went to air traffic into and out of the airport and amenities for travelers. Mr. Greene informed Commissioners that the airport sees a lot of travelers. There is a loaner car available for them to access local restaurants and other amenities.

Mr. Harry Nehus, a resident of 26 Holcomb Hill, was granted *Privilege of Floor*. He complained of a three year, on-going problem of water in his basement. He said that City workers tried without success three years ago to find the source of the water. Since then, Mr. Nehus has spent a great deal of time and money trying to remedy the problem with the use of sump pumps and expensive waterproofing of his basement walls. Ms. Landers asked if he was the person that Dr. Thomas had spoken of when he came to

her office on other business last Friday. If so, she reported his problem to Water Department personnel and they went to his house yesterday to see where the water was leaking out of the ground. They were unable to get anyone when they knocked on his door, but did spend a good deal of time tramping over his property, looking for signs of the leak, which she had misunderstood to be outside of his house. She apologized for the misunderstanding of where the water was coming out (in his basement rather than outside of his house). Mr. Nehus provided Ms. Landers with contact numbers for workers to speak directly to him.

Mr. Lynch reported on the following:

- Columbia Gas will soon begin working on the area from Court Street to Vine Street between First and Fourth Avenues. They will not be cutting into the road surface of Third Avenue, which was repaved only last year. They will be making efforts to limit their cuts elsewhere and will be talking more pains to properly patch their cuts.
- City workers are still fixing water leaks, notably the one this week at Second and Sycamore. We are still holding our own at the reservoir.
- There are not enough lifeguards available to consistently, safely operate the pool. Mr. Bostic has requested that we close the pool immediately for general swim sessions. The pool will remain open for water walkers and adult morning swim, which do not require lifeguard supervision. We will also remain open for pool parties, which are scheduled for evenings when lifeguards are more readily available. Commissioners agreed that these measures, though regrettable, are necessary for public safety.
- Mr. Grubaugh, City Maintenance Garage Supervisor, has submitted his resignation from City employment, effective August 16, 2021.

The City Auditor presented for approval of payment an invoice of \$26,757.32 from Rumpke for June refuse pick-up. The invoice was dated 6/17/21. PO was dated 7/1/21. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers said that the approval of the July Financial Statement would be on the agenda for the next meeting to give Commissioners a chance to review it.

The server installation, approved at the last meeting, has been slightly delayed to allow the ordering of more parts, costing an additional \$2,000. CMI has told us that these parts are needed to handle the webpays for utility billing. The work is projected for this weekend if all parts arrive. Our IT contractor, Mr. Ben Mohebbi, plans to be on hand the following Monday morning to handle any problems that might arise and to train personnel on back-up procedures for the new server.

Mr. Brown said that he has received complaints of motorists not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalks. It was suggested to ask the newspaper to do an article to remind drivers of the law. Also, there is an increasing problem of drag racing involving cars, pick-up trucks, and motorcycles on City streets.

Mr. Brown has heard from residents unhappy about trees being removed from the Streetscape area. They liked the aesthetics that they provided, particularly at Christmas with the lights strung in them. Commissioners briefly discussed the problem with the varieties of trees planted in the past. Mr. Brown suggested considering replanting with a better-suited variety such as Russian olive.

Mr. Gallagher brought up the subject of pay for Commissioners, which was last presented to the electorate in the late '90's. He said that many residents are surprised to learn that Commissioners receive no pay and feel that this is unfair. He endorsed submitting a Charter change to the electorate in next May's primary. President Caldwell mentioned that when he attended his training as a newly-elected

Commissioner a few years ago that he was the only one in a room full of over 100 participants at the training that raised his hand when asked who was unpaid.

Mr. Gallagher commented that markings are still on the street from the Hoops Project. Sometimes these are power washed off, but will eventually wash or wear away in the weather and traffic.

Mr. Fulks attended the Gallia County Fair opening with other dignitaries. He said that the Fair Board is looking again into moving the fairgrounds, which is prone to frequent flooding. He encouraged support for this project.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2021-23 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2021-04, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2021-07, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2021-11, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2021-16, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2021-24 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2021-05, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2021-12, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2021-25 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 514 "PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. In discussion, President Caldwell said that this expands the definitions to include wording for sexual orientation and is based on the ordinance that Portsmouth, Ohio adopted. Although the federal government has laws guaranteeing these protections, the State of Ohio does not. Ms. Landers read some of the relevant sections. There was some discussion of who would be subject to the ordinance, such as businesses, but not religious organizations. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to table this ordinance to allow further study, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote to table this ordinance, Mr. Caldwell voted no. All other votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2021-26 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 515.02 "FAIR HOUSING DEFINITIONS" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Brown made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Following a very brief discussion, Mr. Gallagher made a motion to table this ordinance as well to allow further study, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to table this ordinance, Mr. Caldwell voted no. All other votes were yes.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission