

August 6, 2013

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President James Jay Cremeens called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

James Jay Cremeens, President  
 Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President  
 James A. Cozza, Member

Others attending were:

Randall J. Finney, City Manager  
 Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor  
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer  
 Amber Gillenwater, Gallipolis Daily Tribune  
 Tony Gallagher                      Joy Elliott                      Keith Elliott  
 Ronnie Lynch                          Lynn Angell                      Dottie Chestnut

Commission received the minutes of the July 16, 2013 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Ms. Lynn Angell was granted *Privilege of Floor*. She said that she wanted to ask about her application for grant funding under the Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant. She claimed that hers was the first application submitted, but that it was rejected for funding because priority was being assigned to dilapidated properties with deceased or low-income owners. She said that she had recently learned that Amy Carter and Russell Wood were added later to the bottom of the list. She requested that she also be added to the bottom of the list, ahead of Carter and Wood. Mr. Wallis responded that there were no formal guidelines for the grant, but that the Commission was targeting those properties where the owners could not afford to pay. President Cremeens stated that they also tried to spread funding around town, not concentrating on any single neighborhood. Mr. Wallis suggested that the Commission review the list. Ms. Angell stated several times that she was satisfied with the Commission's criteria for granting priority, but just wanted to assure that her application remained in consideration if funding allowed, either from the current grant award or from additional grant funding that might become available. Mr. Finney said that three of the properties have been sent out to bid. They will have a better idea how many houses they can cover under the grant once those bids come in. There may not be enough funding to work the way to the bottom of the list. He confirmed that Ms. Angell's property is still on the list of deficient properties, just not on the smaller list of prioritized properties that the Commission chose from that list. In the absence of two Commissioners, President Cremeens noted that no decisions could be made at tonight's meeting.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Mound Hill Road Repair – The road is now open. Nuko's quote was the best and most responsive to pave sections of the road above and below the repaired section for around \$20,000. President Cremeens suggested re-visiting the practice of allowing trucks to dump carcasses in the cemetery. The road will likely suffer damage from truck traffic. Mr. Finney agreed to look into the matter. There is a bid out to put a concrete ditch going up the hill to divert rain runoff from

- the road. Mr. Wallis suggested getting some of the Gallipolis in Bloom committee involved in planting some flowers along the hillside.
- The newly-purchased bucket truck is in now.
  - Christmas lights in the City Park – There is a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5 p.m. Mr. Finney showed a sample of one of the designs being considered.
  - Demolition Grant – The first three houses are out to bid.
  - Heritage Ohio has scheduled a meeting to discuss grants and other funding for the rehabilitation of historic properties. It is scheduled for Monday in Athens. The cost is \$20.
  - City Park Bandstand – Mr. Harold Thompson has volunteered to work on the bandstand, charging only the cost of materials.
  - Traffic light study – Many of the traffic lights are not functioning properly. They need to be adjusted to encourage traffic flow. There is a plan to fix items such as the control boxes and cooling fans. An annual maintenance contract with the company would cost \$1,600 per year.
  - Signage on Park Front – Mr. Finney displayed a picture of a privately-funded sign that Mrs. Karen Smith proposes to place on the Park Front to welcome river traffic to Gallipolis. She will bring details to a later meeting.
  - Shade Tree Committee – Due to the death of one of the members, the Commission needs to appoint a new member to the vacated position.
  - AIB Seminar – The annual seminar will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Orlando. It will cost approximately \$3,800 if all four employees who worked on Gallipolis in Bloom go to represent Gallipolis. Following discussion, Mr. Wallis made a motion to send all four to the seminar, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
  - Games Building – An engineering study recently completed recommended that the property owner do some work to stabilize the building, but did not recommend demolition. The building on the other side of the old Haskins Tanner lot needs to have the brick re-grouted and re-pointed.
  - I/I and water leak work – The wastewater treatment plant treated around 31 million gallons less for the first six months of this year because of the work that the city crews have been doing.
  - Chamber Recognition Dinner – There will be a dinner on Thursday evening, August 15<sup>th</sup>, for volunteers and sponsors of the River Recreation Festival.
  - BOCA violations – Mr. Amsbary has three or four properties that need to be mowed and/or cleaned up. He has been notified that he must act on the orders or the City will contract for the work and place the cost against his property taxes. He could be taken to court for code violations. Mr. Wallis asked about the mound of dirt on his property on Eastern Avenue, popularly known as "Mount Amsbary." Mr. Cozza provided some history, saying that Mr. Amsbary had a shed on the property at one time, but was told to remove the shed and keep the grass mowed.
  - There will be a meeting on the Community Corrections Act Grant on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Justice Center.
  - Employee Medical Insurance meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The City-wide Yard Sale is set for Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - OVRDC is having a ribbon cutting for their new facility in Waverly on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1 p.m.
  - Keith Jeffers, State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Ohio, will be honored at a banquet in Columbus on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Smoke testing – The City now has a smoke testing machine. Plans are to test Portsmouth Road this week. Doing this work in-house will save a great deal of money.
  - EPA meeting on Sewer Plant Upgrade – Mr. Finney reported on the meeting in Logan last week. He said that the EPA was coming down hard on overflows and exerting a great deal of pressure to postpone the Headworks Project in favor of addressing I/I and overflows first, but they eventually

backed off of their rigid position. They seem to understand now the urgency of the Headworks project. They also see that we are actively addressing overflows and I/I.

- Hoops Project – There were 65 teams that participated in the tournament. In spite of the rain, the event went very well and brought in a lot of extra business for the downtown. They are already talking about a repeat for next year.
- Mr. Finney plans to take a day off next Thursday.
- City Park – Two new picnic tables have been installed, along with the commemorative bricks for donations to the City Park Tree Fund.

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

The City Solicitor reported that he and Ms. Fellure attended the Ohio Municipal Attorneys Conference last week. He said that the topics were very useful.

Mr. Wallis asked the City Manager if he was going to the Issue I meeting at the County. Mr. Finney answered that he could not because it conflicted with tonight's Commission meeting.

Mr. Wallis also asked if the Commission needed to respond to the letter that Bette Horan sent to the Board of Elections and the City. Mr. Gallagher added that the Board of Elections took the position that the letter was not submitted in time, which they claimed was February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day after the petition in question was submitted. The City Solicitor answered that the Board of Elections deals with the election. The Charter says no employee or appointed officer may interfere with an election. Once the election results are in, if someone is not qualified to be seated, there is a procedure to deal with it at that time. Mr. Salisbury offered to send a response to Ms. Horan's letter.

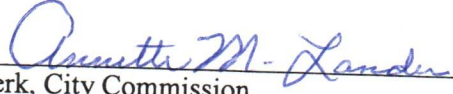
Mr. Cozza stated that several weeks ago, he opened the discussion to include others on the Demolition Grant because he hoped to get a new house built in the City. He observed that this seems to have opened the floodgates to anyone who wishes to be on the list. He offered to make a motion to revert back to the original purpose and remove any extra names from the list. Mr. Wallis responded that he had never seen a list of criteria for inclusion on the list. Mr. Cozza explained that this has been left largely to the Code Enforcement Officer to determine if the owner is around, deceased, or indigent or if the property is abandoned. Mr. Finney reminded the Commissioners that they only considered the condition of the house for the last grant, which turned out well. All of the houses now on the list have received nuisance letters. Mr. Cozza questioned how the City could determine if a property owner has the resources to tear down a house. Mr. Finney conceded that this is a problem. The last grant enabled the City to get the houses that were in the worst shape down. We will do the ones on the current list first. There are other houses in town that could potentially qualify if we get additional funding from left over grant funding that other communities were unable to utilize. Demolitions run from \$2,000 to \$9,000 per house.


In answer to a question about progress on parking changes on Court Street, Mr. Finney said that he plans to meet with businesses and residents soon to discuss plans and any concerns.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading a Resolution No. R2013-05 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.** Mr. Wallis made a motion to place this resolution on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon voice vote to place this resolution on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2013-47 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2013-34, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A 2007 ALTEC BUCKET TRUCK AND A 2013 VERMEER BRUSH CHIPPER FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTS AND TO ENTER INTO LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR SAID EQUIPMENT.** Mr. Cozza 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