

September 15, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual special session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 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 W. Brown, Member (in person)
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member (remote access)
 T. Beau Sang, Member (remote access)

Michael C. Fulks, Vice President, attended by phone, beginning with reading of the legislation.

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (remote access)
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)
 Beth Sergeant, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)
 Ronnie Lynch (in person) Marvin Ours (remote access)
 Lori Kelly (in person) Karen McCarty (remote access)
 Shari Rocchi (in person) Keith Elliott (in person)
 Larry Taylor (in person) Jeff Boyer (remote access)

Commission received the minutes of the September 1, 2020 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Mr. Larry Taylor, Energy Specialist with Volunteer Energy Services, Inc. (VESI). He expressed thanks and gave a brief recap of VESI's history with the City as our natural gas aggregation program specialists. The program guarantees a five percent savings, plus provides an additional annual civic grant of five cents per ncf. Our two-year agreement with them expires at the end of November. O2020-31 on tonight's agenda is a renewal agreement for another two years. He also offered to bid on our electric aggregation program when it comes up for renewal. Commissioners thanked him for the good service that Volunteer Energy has provided the City and our residents.

Ms. Lori Kelly was next granted *Privilege of Floor* to speak on Gallipolis in Lights' plans to deal with COVID restrictions. Ms. Kelly told Commissioners that October 1st is when they normally start their work decorating the City Park. Because of COVID, they had to cancel their two major fundraisers this year: the 5K in the spring and the Gala for December. Their reduced funding means less to spend on decorating this year.

They are working closely with the Health Department in developing their plans for this year. Mr. Gallagher asked to hear back from Gallipolis in Lights when they get a response to their mitigation plans for the tree lighting and tree decorating. There are around fifteen people who help decorate the park, so social distancing should not pose a problem. They plan to do a "virtual lighting" rather than a live event. The time for this will not be announced, only when the video of the lighting will be available on-line. There will be no cookies and cocoa. Decoration of the tree walk will be done at assigned times over a period of four days. There will be no fireworks. After Christmas, breakdown will be done by a specialized group over a period of several days.

Mr. Brown stated that he is worried that someone from outside the area will bring in COVID. He wondered how the public can be assured of social distancing. Ms. Kelly explained that the Health Department has advised that public parks do not have to be policed. They will post many signs spelling out the rules for social distancing, but since there is no public event planned, the public is responsible for their own safety when choosing to visit the park. This is the same as any other day or time that people come into the park to enjoy it. The City Solicitor agreed that the City would bear no liability for COVID exposure since there are no events scheduled that people will be attending.

In addition, there was discussion of how to handle the possibility of a spike in COVID cases, which could require shutting off the lights on short notice. Ms. Kelly answered that people will need to acknowledge in writing that they understand the rules and the risk of cancellation, meaning no refunds for the trees along the tree walk. Ms. Kelly assured Commissioners that they will conduct everything safely and responsibly. Commissioners wished them well.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- 588 Road Slip Repair - ODOT has received all documentation and is now doing site prep work. Their disposal site(s) for the fill to come out of the road slip is located behind L&L Scrap Metals.
- Columbia Gas Project – The work on Vine & Third is done. They are working on Locust, with Cedar next. The bid opening for paving is September 25th.
- Electric Energy Aggregation Program – We are working with SOPEC (Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council) for the new contract period. This is a consortium of municipalities. Residents will not notice any change in the presentation of their bills, just a reduction in rates.
- Gallipolis in Bloom will stop watering at the end of September. Someone vandalized the planters on the State Street Bridge by pulling all of the flowers out.
- Trick or Treat - Chief Boyer is working with the Sheriff's department and the Health Department to ensure a safe environment for our children. It is scheduled for the usual day (the Thursday before the 31st). Guidelines, which Mr. Lozier went over verbally, will be sent to the press, put on Facebook, and sent to the Commissioners.
- Executive session was requested for personnel - hiring in the Fire Department. Mr. Lozier requested that Chief Elliott attend.

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

Ms. Landers presented the following invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$26,139.47 from Rumpke for August trash pick-up. Inv: 8/19/20. PO: 9/1/20.
- \$4,239.80 from BWC for monthly premium. Inv: 8/28/20. PO: 9/1/20.

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

A list of donations dating from January to September 4, 2020 and totaling \$14,585 were presented for acceptance. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept these donations, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon voice vote to accept this list of donations, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers asked Commissioners again if they were all in agreement with waiving the post-audit meeting. This being the case, one of the Commissioners must sign the waiver. President Caldwell agreed that Mr. Brown, physically present tonight, could sign the waiver.

Mr. Gallagher again encouraged all residents to complete their 2020 Census forms.

Mr. Sang again expressed concern that the SR588 Slip Project might not be completed by November 14th. Mr. Lozier told him that ODOT is confident of completion since they started by September 8th. By starting, they do not mean shovels in the ground. Mr. Lozier assured him that he would keep a close eye on progress, with the possibility of extra work shifts if needed.

Mr. Sang was also concerned about whether guidelines for the CARES Act money were being stringently followed. Mr. Lozier told him that the State Treasurer and State Auditor have been sending out the guidelines as they are updated. The guidelines did allow 50% of public Safety personnel costs, but that has more recently been set at 100% unless the executive officer sets it at less. At our last meeting, the City Manager formally set it to that standard (50% or higher ... maximum allowable). Ms. Landers explained that we have been maintaining spreadsheets of expenses charged against the CARES Act, which track individual employee hours & pay amounts by pay period during the emergency declaration period. These are being preserved in a folder for the meticulous audit that we know is coming.

Mr. Marvin Ours asked if residents will need to do anything to remain in the City's aggregation programs. Mr. Lozier told him that they remain opt-out, which means residents already in the programs will remain in unless they specifically request to opt out.

Mr. Brown asked about mowing in the cemeteries, which has gotten behind. The City Manager told him that this has been a problem of weather, time and resources. We have had a problem retaining our seasonal workers. Some of our maintenance department crew have been helping out between their regularly assigned duties. However, our many water leak repairs remain their highest priority.

Mr. Fulks joined the meeting at this point by speaker phone. There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-31 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM**. 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. O2020-32 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE STATE ROUTE 588 SLIP REPAIR**. Mr. Sang made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Fulks. 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. O2020-33 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2020-06, AS AMENDED BY O2020-11, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2020-12, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2020-20, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2020-24, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Ms. Landers explained that this is the ordinance to reduce budgetary expenditures to more closely match revised estimates of our revenues for this year. She explained that General Fund expenditures were reduced by \$177,676.09, but that some further tweaking might be necessary as CARES Act money continues to come in. 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. O2020-34 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2020-07, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2020-19 AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO**

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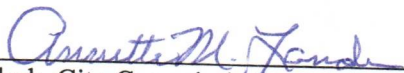
TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Brown made a motion to enter executive session for personnel – hiring in the Fire Department, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes. President Caldwell announced that there would likely be business following executive session. Mr. Lozier explained to people attending that he would be sending out invitations for the Zoom session to follow executive session. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to special session. A short time was allowed for people to log in to the new Zoom meeting session.

Mr. Lozier stated that Mike Null is retiring from his position at the Fire Department. His position was posted internally and applicants were interviewed. Chief Elliott and the City Manager are recommending Jeremy O'Dell for the Station Firefighter position. Mr. O'Dell has fifteen years of experience with the Fire Department.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to offer the Station Firefighter position to Jeremy O'Dell, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission