

October 6, 2020

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

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (remote access)
Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (remote access)
Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)
Bethany Sergent, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)
Ronnie Lynch (in person) Marvin Ours (remote access)
Bill Mangus (in person) Jeff Boyer (remote access)
Charlie Huber (in person)

Commission received the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Mr. Bill Mangus, representing the Ohio VFW Honor Guard of Gallia County Burial Detail. He asked where the present Commission stands on their prior requests to display posters of past and present service members. He said that many other villages are participating, making us one of the last in our part of the state to consent. President Caldwell answered that the last he remembered of discussion was that we were talking about allowing placement around the doughboy monument. This was Mr. Fulks' memory as well. Mr. Mangus said that they really want to put them all down Second Avenue from Vine Street. He added that some merchants would like to put them in front of their businesses. Mr. Gallagher asked if they had obtained sign-on from all of the veterans groups, as Commission previously requested. Mr. Mangus answered that they had not, but that they were now a separate non-profit group of around ten members.

The City Solicitor stated that she had talked to an attorney for the City of Columbus. He said that they do not allow anything other than American flags or signs. Mr. Mangus answered that the suburbs around Columbus do allow the posters. They have twelve posters already made and would like to hang them for the 11 a.m. service on Veterans Day. AEP has given permission to hang them from their poles. Mr. Sang suggested bringing one in with hanging brackets to test hanging it up. Mr. Fulks added that their group would need liability insurance to cover possible damage or injury claims.

Mr. Lozier, Mr. Gallagher, and Ms. Noe all spoke of the problem the City could face in setting a precedent. If we allow for one group, we must allow for any other. We cannot base permission on content. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Noe to check on the protocols that other villages are using in allowing these posters. Mr. Lozier said that the last time this was discussed, Mr. Greene had noted that having posters all around the Park could be an emotional issue for some veterans. It would seem more a question of how to honor our veterans than if we will honor them. Mr. Lozier will talk with Mr. Mangus soon to determine which

veterans groups have expressed support and why others might object. President Caldwell postponed any further discussion to the next meeting.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- James McCormick, the host of a television program called “Digging History,” has asked to do an investigation of Gallipolis Island, Fortification Hill, and the City Park. He uses a metal detector to look for artifacts. Anything found would be donated to a local historical group or museum. This could be good public relations exposure for the City. In discussion, Commissioners were interested, but Gallipolis Island might require someone else’s permission if the property has transferred out of our name. (We only owned a portion of the property in any case.)
- Columbia Gas is pushing to have their project completed in the areas that Shelly Company will be paving. This may require extra shifts. Paving is to begin on Third Avenue on October 19th. We must appropriate additional dollars for our match on the added work that we are doing this year.
- Public interest meetings were held today for our natural gas aggregation program.
- A student group from the University of Rio Grande wants to come to Gallipolis this Friday and do a public service project cleaning and painting in the City Park.
- We are planning extra police patrols of the Public Use Area in response to complaints of unruly drivers. We also plan to place speed bumps and put in a crosswalk on First Avenue like what we have in front of the Justice Center.
- The 588 Road Slip Repair is progressing well for completion in mid-November.
- Because of the work on SR588, Chillicothe Road is getting too much traffic, which is causing problems for the water and sewer lines. We need to repair the road as an emergency measure while contractors are removing materials from the 588 Project. These materials can be used to stabilize Chillicothe Road. Such an exigency would require a vote of the Commission. Mr. Fulks made a motion that given the urgent nature of the conditions and circumstances of the sanitary sewer and the roadway on Chillicothe Road that the Commission authorize the City Manager to take the necessary steps to remedy issues as an emergency measure to insure the public health and safety, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes.

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

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

- \$5,014.41 from AEP for street lighting. Inv: 8/26/20. PO: 9/1/20.

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

A list of donations dating from September 15, 2020 to September 29, 2020 and totaling \$4,885.72 (\$2,705 for Gallipolis in Lights and \$2,180.72 for the Police Department for two Tasers) were presented for acceptance. Mr. Sang made a motion to accept these donations, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to accept this list of donations, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers presented the 2021 Alternate Tax Budget for approval. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve the 2021 Alternate Tax Budget, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor reported that the new VOCA Grant was cut around 40% from their requested budget. This grant is used for salaries of the three employees hired under the grant program. These employees have agreed to adjust their hours to accommodate the cuts. They are looking for any other grants

that might be available to supplement the program. They had to submit a new grant budget by October 1st to reflect the cuts.

Mr. Gallagher encouraged all residents to vote in the November 3rd election. Early voting has already begun in Ohio.

Mr. Fulks said that the new owner of the old Jerry Davis property along the Ohio River would like to clean up some adjoining City-owned property on the river side. Commissioners discussed the work he intends to do, which would involve mowing, trimming, etc. to make it look more like a yard. As Commissioners were agreeable, Ms. Noe will draft a contract for both parties to sign.

Mr. Fulks said that he had received some complaints recently about Suddenlink's poor customer service (unprofessional conduct and inflexibility). Mr. Ours had brought similar concerns to the Commission back in February. Commissioners discussed growing regional dis-satisfaction with Suddenlink and whether other options might be available. Mr. Lozier offered to look into potential competitors.

Mr. Sang asked whether we have been doing an inventory of problem areas for water leaks with an eye toward fixing them before paving. The City Manager said that infrastructure is at the forefront of their thoughts in planning. Mr. Fulks observed that running a milling machine, with all of the rollers and vibrations, causes water leaks. "It just comes with the territory." Mr. Lozier added that for the short term, we need better equipment for patching. For the longer term, we need a planning and design grant to prioritize projects.

Mr. Sang complained that, although he did not want to seem insensitive to the need for them, the donation bins in some locations around town have become an eyesore and need to be cleaned up. Mr. Lozier said that he has called the phone numbers listed on the bins, but they are not as responsive right now as they would normally be due to COVID.

Mr. Sang also showed pictures of the buzzards or turkey vultures that are roosting at the City Pool. They are tearing up shingles and causing sanitary issues at the playgrounds. Also, people are disposing of their private trash in the City's dumpsters. Mr. Fulks pointed out that the buzzards are federally protected. If we lock the dumpsters, as has been suggested, people will just leave their trash on or around them. There was some discussion of possible help in controlling the birds from ODNR or USDA programs.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-35 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR HIGHWAY DE-ICING SALT, CALCIUM CHLORIDE, AND COLD MIX**. Mr. Fulks 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. O2020-36 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR THE PAVING OF STREETS**. 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.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-37 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH USI INSURANCE SERVICES (PEP) FOR GENERAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY INSURANCE**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt

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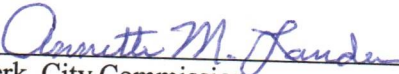
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this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-38 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE FINAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE STATE ROUTE 588 SLIP REPAIR.** 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.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission