

November 17, 2015

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Steven Wallis called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Steven E. Wallis, President  
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Vice-President  
 Michael C. Fulks, Member

Michael W. Brown, Member, and Matthew Johnson, Member, arrived at approximately 7 p.m.

Others attending were:

M. Eugene Greene, City Manager  
 Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor  
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer  
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune  
 Ronnie Lynch                      Marvin Vanderberg                      Tim Miller  
 Keith Elliott                      Jeff Boyer                      Joy Elliott  
 Randy Breech

Commission received the minutes of the November 3, 2015 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Mr. Ashton Berdine of the WV Land Trust sent an e-mail to update the City on their progress in acquiring Gallipolis Island. He said that they are tying up loose ends, including getting a corrective deed from the other half-owner, and will keep us posted.
- Mr. Davis asked at the last meeting about opening up Newsome Street as an emergency escape for Spruce Street Extension. In looking into the matter, Mr. Greene found that there would be a chance that the area would slip if the right of way was cut into. However, the City crew has ditched, graded, and stoned the escape road to Texas Road and it is now in good enough condition for passenger cars to use. Mr. Greene tried it out today himself.
- The City has been asked to extend the tower lease on Mound Hill early. There are nineteen and a half years left on the old contract.
- Mr. Greene recommended Mr. Fredrick W. Wheeler to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Tom Childs on the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Review Board. Mr. Fulks made a motion to appoint Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- City crews repaired two major water leaks over the weekend with a minimal loss of water in each case. One involved a twelve-inch line on Third Avenue and the other an eight-inch line on State Route 141.
- The leaf route is on-going in the City, with crews running daily.
- Mr. Greene has received word that the State will mill, grind, and repave State Route 141 to the top of the hill, which will address concerns for safety in that area.

- Mr. Green and Chief Elliott recommended Mr. Tim Miller for the Gallipolis Fire Department. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to approve that appointment, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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

Ms. Landers said that she is working with the State Treasurer's Office to get our page on the Checkbook.com website up and running. They are hoping to have us live by the beginning of the year.

Mr. Greene and Ms. Landers were informed this week that the ODOT grant money for the 588 Slip Repair Project is a reimbursing grant, which requires that we make payment to the vendors up front and await reimbursement from the grant. This will require between \$44,000 and \$77,900, depending on cost of the remainder of the project. We will need to secure funding for this from somewhere other than the General Fund. Ms. Landers will check into this and bring legislation to the next meeting.

The City Solicitor informed the Commission that both owners of the properties under eminent domain have agreed to sign quit-claim deeds. This will allow the City and the owners to avoid a lengthy court process.

Mr. Salisbury stated that they seem to be coming close to resolving with the attorney for the Gallia County Sheriff's Department the issue of the Workers' Compensation premium attributable to the Bartles case. He is hoping to have it completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Salisbury also reported a successful DUI case last Friday. He has two more OVI cases to go involving the same defendant.

Mr. Gallagher commented that the Colony Club is very nice. Mr. Breech said that he just came from a taste test for the new businesses in town, which the Colony Club is participating in.

President Wallis informed the other Commissioners that a group from the City has met with the Township Trustees of Green, Addison, and Gallipolis Townships to discuss the new fire contracts. We will meet with Clay Township on Friday at 10 a.m.

President Wallis reminded the Commissioners of the Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and the Thanksgiving Dinner set for this Friday. He asked if Mr. Greene would like to discuss anything about the old train depot on Third Avenue. Mr. Greene answered that he would wait until all of the Commissioners are present.

Because two of the Commissioners had not arrived, the reading of the emergency ordinances was postponed to later in the meeting.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2015-51 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL FROM THE LEDGERS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS UTILITY BILLING OFFICE CERTAIN PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AS SET FORTH HEREIN**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

Commission entered work session to continue discussions of possible revenue streams for the General Fund. President Wallis led the discussion. Mr. Brown and Mr. Johnson arrived during work

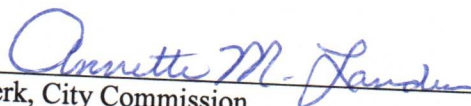
session. Discussion centered on the idea of going to the voters for either a property tax levy or an additional income tax levy. Operations in the departments have already been cut to such a low level that any additional loss of personnel would severely impact the level of services to our residents. Commissioners identified the most critical services as those involved in public safety. This includes the operations of the police department, fire department (in excess of that provided for by the fire levy and the fire contracts with the townships), housing of prisoners (which is part of the Police Department budget). Court, Solicitor, and Code Enforcement. The minimum amount needed to support these departments exceed the projected \$1,400,000 that a 1% additional income tax would yield. Our 1.9 mill property tax yields around \$135,000 per year, which means that the millage required to produce \$1.4 million would approach 20 mills. After considerable discussion, President Wallis asked the City Manager, Auditor, and Solicitor to look further into the matter and come back to the next meeting with legislation to enact one or the other (property tax or income tax).

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2015-15 entitled **AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY WITH THE TOWNSHIPS OF ADDISON, CLAY, GREEN, AND GALLIPOLIS OF GALLIA COUNTY, OHIO.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2015-16 entitled **AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF GALLIA COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.** Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call on the motion, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2015-54 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR ASPHALT, LIMESTONE AND BEDDING SAND.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, 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