

November 19, 2013

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, November 19, 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
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 James A. Cozza, Member
 W. Matthew Johnson, 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 Jonathan Elliott Brea Elliott
 Ronnie Lynch Clint Patterson Robert Pugh

Commission received the minutes of the November 5, 2013 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

President Cremeens welcomed Commissioner-elect Tony Gallagher to the meeting.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- State Representative Ryan Smith called about money that might be available to assist with the Parkfront Improvements. A grant would cover 2/3 of the cost, with a 1/3 local match. There was a lengthy discussion of the costs involved and funding possibilities. The project could be done in phases to spread out the cost. The original project designated the parking area as the first phase, but Mr. Finney and the Commissioners agreed that they would rather look at development of the amphitheater side first. The local match could possibly come from a combination of other grant funds, private donations, and/or bond funding. Commissioners were interested in pursuing these funds, if possible.
- The employee Thanksgiving lunch is set for Friday, November 22nd, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Commissioners and the Commissioner-elect are invited.
- Municipal tax reform – HB5 passed the House and has gone on to the Senate. It passed with some of the most detrimental language re-inserted, in spite of testimony from municipalities on the negative impact and months of negotiating to remove the most egregious language. The City of Athens has set a meeting with their senator on Monday at 4 p.m., which we have been invited to attend. Mr. Finney and Mr. Lynch plan to attend.
- There is an OVRDC executive committee meeting scheduled for this Thursday afternoon in Waverly.
- Mr. Finney requested executive session for personnel (wages) and legal (lawsuit involving Police Department).

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

Ms. Landers informed the Commissioners that she contacted Max Uhl about postponing his review of the Performance Audit to January or February. He would like to meet on January 7th at 6 p.m. The Lions Club has asked to tour the building that evening, so this date will need to be changed.

Ms. Landers briefly reviewed some of the legislation on tonight's agenda. R2013-10 concerns accepting the 1.9 mill levy for the General Fund and the 2.0 mill levy for the Fire Levy as set by the Gallia County Budget Commission at the hearing on November 7th. Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Landers, and Mr. Finney attended the hearing. Commissioners also discussed the replacement Fire Levy, which did not make it onto the November ballot. Ms. Landers and Mr. Finney told the Commissioners that this omission may have been a blessing in disguise. At the budget hearing, the representative from the State informed us of changes to the law for special levies. If voters had passed a replacement levy, it would have meant that residents would have lost the 12.5% in rollbacks that the State now pays. We will need to carefully craft any levy language to preserve these rollbacks for our residents. She also went over the appropriation changes, temporary appropriations (which come from the Alternate Tax Budget), water/sewer write-offs (totaling \$6,357 this year), and employee bonuses of \$125 each, which are coming from amounts appropriated, but unspent, for the employee self-insurance fund. A portion of these appropriations will be transferred to the payroll line items to provide these bonuses.

President Cremeens encouraged Commissioners to turn in their reservations for the Christmas Dinner. He also mentioned the rally in the park for GDC, which he attended along with Mr. Brown. He encouraged everyone to attend the Christmas lighting ceremony in the City Park, set for Wednesday, November 27th, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Cozza asked the City Solicitor to send another letter to Children & Family First to let them know that we are exempt from the \$1,000 assessment that they send out annually to members. Mr. Salisbury said that he would send them another letter, but that we are exempt by law and should not be billed at all.

Mr. Johnson spoke of the effort in hanging the lights in the park. It has taken much more time and effort than originally anticipated. He said that the park should look wonderful for the lighting ceremony, which will be attended by our State Representative Ryan Smith, along with other dignitaries.

Mr. Johnson also announced that the Riverby Theater Guild plans to renovate a building on Court Street for their new permanent home. President Cremeens asked if the rumor that BTS was leaving town was true. Mr. Johnson affirmed that they are relocating to Columbus. President Cremeens responded that one good piece of news was the recent two-year renewal of Dollar General's lease.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency a Resolution No. R2013-10 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. Wallis made a motion to adopt this resolution as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-65 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2013-16, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-23, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-30, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-45, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-49, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-54, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-60, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING**

THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cozza. 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. O2013-66 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2013-17, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-31, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-47, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2013-55, AS AMENDED BY OPRDINANCE NO. O2013-61, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Johnson 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. O2013-67 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS TO VARIOUS ENTITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTION.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cozza. In discussion, Mr. Brown favored soliciting financial statements from the entities because the need seems greater for some than others. Last year, groups submitted letters describing their programs and needs. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, Mr. Cozza, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Wallis voted yes. Mr. Brown and Mr. Cremeens voted no. Ordinance No. O2013-67 was placed on first reading. Mr. Finney will request letters of need from the organizations.

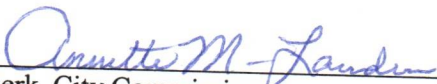
There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-68 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO A LOCAL COMMUNITY ENTITY.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency. The motion died for lack of a second.

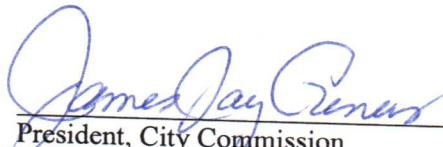
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2013-69 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014.** Mr. Brown made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2013-70 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. Brown made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-71 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A BONUS TO ALL PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ALL APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Brown made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel (wages) and legal (Police Department lawsuit) per ORC 121.22, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to special session. There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned.


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission