

November 1, 2016

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Tony Gallagher called the meeting to order. Mr. Wallis gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Albert "Tony" Gallagher, President
 Michael C. Fulks, Vice-President
 Roger P. Brandeberry, Member
 W. Matthew Johnson, Member
 Steven E. Wallis, Member

Others attending were:

M. Eugene Greene, City Manager		
Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer		
Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune		
Ronnie Lynch	Beverly Dunkle	Mary Lee Marchi
Justin Rice	Joy Elliott	Keith Elliott
Randy Breech	Keith Elliott	Jimmy Wiseman
Josh Bodimer	Rob Pugh	Aaron Buckley
Erin Buckley	Keith Blankenship	

Commission received the minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Ms. Bev Dunkle of the Gallipolis in Bloom Committee. She thanked the community for financing the trip to the America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium for herself and Kim Canaday. She reported that Gallipolis won their population category and also retained their "four bloom" designation. The City also was recognized for floral displays. She said that Gallipolis was recognized prominently throughout the symposium. Fall Planting Day was last Saturday. On November 19th, they will decorate a tree in the City Park. The registration fee for participation in AIB has gone up for next year. She asked for the Commission's continued support of the program. Commissioners joined in thanking and congratulating Ms. Dunkle and the Gallipolis in Bloom Committee.

Mr. Jimmy Wiseman of the Downtown Revitalization Project was granted *Privilege of Floor*. President Gallagher read the present ordinance on the City Park, which prohibits additional above ground construction. Mr. Wiseman spoke of the increased activity in the City Park and the potential for even more with the development of the riverfront. His group would like to place a 25' x 25' splash pad on the Court Street side of the City Park. Commissioners were provided several drawings showing the proposed location and what the pad would look like. The Downtown Revitalization Project would pay for the project, as well as future upkeep and utilities. They would like to preserve the historical nature of the park by incorporating engraved stones with historical information and benches around the pad. He asked the Commission to consider amending the present ordinance or to discuss the issue further. President Gallagher informed him that their first step should be to present their proposal to the Park Board and the Historical Board, who would then make their recommendations to the Commission.

The City Manager stated that the City Park is on the National Historic Register and is in the Gallipolis Historic District. Building a splash pad could jeopardize this designation and could also impact our ability to receive some grants. Digging in the area might have an archaeological impact because it was once a cemetery. It also housed the first court house and a Civil War encampment.

Mr. Brandeberry noted that the AIB judge recommended a splash pad for the City Park. He added that he admires the great amount of work that their (the Downtown Revitalization Project group) generation is doing.

Several of the people present spoke in favor of the project, including Mr. Robbie Pugh, Mr. Josh Bodimer, and Mr. & Mrs. Buckley. Mr. Johnson seemed to summarize the feelings of those present by noting that the City Park has evolved in the past and it needs to evolve again. He is very interested in economic development and quality of life. He urged the Commission to "help them out." Mr. Wiseman thanked the Commission for hearing them out. Ms. Landers suggested that he call her for phone numbers for the Park Board and Historic Preservation Committees, so the group can set up meetings with them.

Mr. Greene told the Commissioners that Ms. Fran McEwen, who was also scheduled for *Privilege of Floor*, had called to say she could not be at the meeting. She wanted to speak of her concern over an activity in the Park that a church had recently. It featured children's activities, but also included a live portrayal of the crucifixion of Jesus. Ms. Dunkle, who handles park reservations for the City, said that there was no mention of this in the church's permit application. This was followed by a general discussion on similar activities in the Park. Mr. Johnson mentioned a time when he was installing lights on the bandstand when members of the Catholic Church met for about an hour's service nearby. Impromptu gatherings like this cannot be regulated in a public park. The Gospel Sing, which is a regular summertime event, will be staged in the new amphitheater next year.

The City Manager reported on the following:

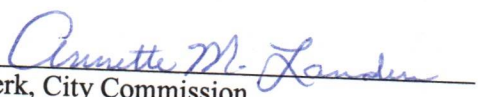
- The Streets Department started their leaf route on Monday. The schedule is on the City's website.
- We will be replacing the water main on Debbie Drive for the County's sewer project.
- We are also in the process of replacing the water main line on Chapel Drive.
- The street sweeper's vacuum pump went bad. Parts are on order, so it will be down a few days.
- At the Water Treatment Plant, well pump #6 was sent out for a re-build and is now back in service. Pump #4 was done back in the spring, so the plant is maintaining its infrastructure.
- The EPA has completed its testing on our water system and was very satisfied with the results.
- Construction at the Water Pollution Control Facility is complete. The punch list should be completed by the end of the week.
- The Volunteer Firefighters had their "Pancakes in the Park" fundraiser last Saturday, with Smokey the Bear in attendance.
- This month's billing in the Utility Office is going out to the customers. We have repaired 129 meters. The 45-day shut-off list has been reduced to a 30-day list due to more active management of delinquencies.
- The Police Department is still transporting prisoners daily, with crime on the rise and housing of prisoner costs going up every month.
- The Parkfront Project is ahead of schedule. New electrical boxes are going in this week, with three new plugs being added on the down-river side. This will allow vendors to set up for events at the amphitheater. Expected completion date is still around Thanksgiving, but may extend a little beyond for a couple of workers to seed and clean.

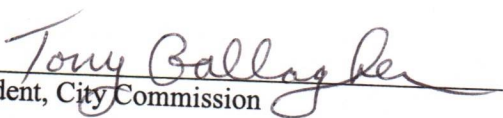
The City Auditor presented one invoice over \$3,000 for approval of payment: \$4,947.85 from AEP for streetlights. The invoice was dated 8/26/16; purchase order was dated 9/1/16. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Wallis. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Landers reviewed the ordinance for water/sewer write-offs for the Commissioners. This year, we collected \$10,862.14 on the delinquent, inactive accounts, placed \$2,396.46 against the property taxes, and had write-offs of \$9,129.14. As a comparison, write-offs in 2015 were \$7,730.92, in 2014 \$7,404.16, and 2013 \$6,357.00. We expected the write-offs to be somewhat higher this year due to the fact that a glitch in the CMI software was not allowing the utility department information on the inactive accounts with consumption for a period of more than a year after the software upgrade. This problem was finally fixed after months of back and forth. That along with the more active management of active delinquent accounts, which has been in effect for a few months now, should reduce our write-offs going forward. One of the large write-offs was questioned, which Ms. Landers addressed by showing what was written off and that it complied with already established procedures.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2016-54 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL FROM THE LEDGERS OF THE GALLIPOLIS BILLING OFFICE CERTAIN PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AS SET FORTH HEREIN.** Mr. Brandeberry made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. 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