

February 15, 2022

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter and Section 121.03 of the City Codified Ordinances.

Commission President Tony Gallagher called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Albert "Tony" Gallagher, President (in person)
William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President (in person)
Michael C. Fulks, Member (in person)

Others attending were:

Dow W Saunders, City Manager (in person)
Shelly L. Clonch, City Auditor (in person)
Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (in person)
Brittany Hively, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)
Ronnie Lynch (in person) Jeff Boyer (in person)
Claudia Miller (in person) Debby Chain (in person)
Alana Fraley (in person) Keith Elliott (remote access)
Whitney Vilfer (remote access) Leslie Froeschle (remote access)
Arthur Miller (remote access)

The commission received the minutes of February 1, 2022, prior to this meeting. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept the February 1st minutes, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of floor was granted to Ms. Alana Fraley with the Gallia County Health Department. She presented to the commission a proposition on making the skatepark smoke and vape free. The health department has had calls about the smoking, vaping, and littering of paraphernalia at the skatepark that is preventing residents from taking their children there. The smoke-free zone would include 10 meters around the park and the health department would provide the signage to display. This would prevent children from being exposed to secondhand smoke. Dr. Thomas said that he would like to see the problem evaluated. Mr. Fulks spoke and said that the skatepark is open to the public the same way every other open government facility is and that the skatepark is mostly designed for those under age, however, there are some that are over age that uses the facility. He has no problem putting signage up but it would be difficult to enforce legally. Ms. Fraley stated she would go evaluate the area. She also mentioned that she spoke with one of the high school principals on the vaping problem with youth now vaping CBD oil and how dangerous it would be for a small child to find this on the ground and put it in their mouth. Ms. Noe mentioned that there is a designated smoking area outside of the pool and asked if the non-smoking parameter would interfere with that. Mr. Saunders said the designated smoking area for the pool could also be used for the skatepark. Ms. Fraley also mentioned that they did a similar project for a park in Rio Grande. The commission directed Mr. Saunders to look further into the issue and see what other communities are doing. The City will get back to Ms. Fraley on their decision.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Met with Sam Eitner with Greak Lakes Community Action Partnership and City water/sewer employees last Tuesday to discuss the kickoff for the GIS mapping of water/sewer lines. They plan to get started in mid-March. He was very impressed with their program which includes being able to track line maintenance, hydrant flushing, and inventory.
- Participated in a zoom EPA webinar on the new infrastructure funding. The meeting reviewed how the infrastructure bill will affect what amount Ohio will get.
- Attended a webinar Senator Brown hosted with ODOT that was also on the infrastructure funding.
- Attended the Mayors Partnership meeting in Athens. It was a good opportunity to network with other managers and share concerns.
- The gas company is completing restorative work on Fourth Avenue and should be done next week.
- Upcoming meetings and events this week include the Gallia County Caucus on Thursday, a budget meeting with supervisors on Thursday, an open house at Square One on Friday, and the Winter Fest this weekend in the City Park.
- Told commission that he would like to have another budget meeting on Friday so that we can wrap it up.
- Requested executive session for personnel issues.

The City Auditor presented three invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$12,036.79 from Bob's Market for GIL supplies. Inv: 12/2/21. PO: 1/31/22.
- \$7,892.19 from Bob's Market for GIL supplies. Inv: 1/28/22. PO: 1/31/22.
- \$19,749.16 from Ohio Valley Bank for fire station bond. Inv: 1/10/22. PO: 1/13/22

Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve payments, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Clonch presented donations to Gallipolis In Lights for the month of December 2021 totaling \$18,833.88 and for the month of January 2022 totaling 2,637.00. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve the December and January donations, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The January 2022 financial statement was presented for approval. Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the January financial statement, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Auditor reminded the commission that the first reading of the appropriations will be presented at the March 1st meeting along with the public hearing on the 2022 budget.

Ms. Clonch asked the commission how they wanted to proceed with the water and sewer rate increase this year. Last year there was no increase on water and a 6% increase on sewer. She recommended keeping the same increase of the 0% water and 6% sewer increase, being that the water fund is stable and healthy and we could use some cushion in the sewer fund considering our high debt service payments. The ordinance needs to be presented at the next meeting so that it can be in effect on the April billing. The City Manager said that he supports the same increase as last year unless we would get into a line replacement project and need the revenue in water. The ordinance can be amended at any time. All commissioners present agreed to a 0% water increase and a 6% sewer increase.

The City Solicitor stated that there is currently a bill on the governor's desk to be signed this week that would extend to June of this year, the ability to allow zoom meetings for a quorum and vote.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading a Resolution No. O2022-03 entitled **A RESOLUTION NAMING GALLIPOLIS CITY MANAGER DOW W SAUNDERS FOR THE VILLAGE OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT 15 PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this resolution on second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading a Resolution No. O2022-04 entitled **A RESOLUTION NAMING GALLIPOLIS AUDITOR SHELLY L CLONCH AS ALTERNATE FOR THE VILLAGE OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT 15 PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE.** Dr. Thomas made a motion to adopt this resolution on second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this resolution on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2022-03 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Fulks made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes.

Upon conclusion of executive session, Commission returned to special session. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission