

February 4, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President Cody Caldwell called the meeting to order. Mr. Sang gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Cody C. Caldwell, President
 Michael C. Fulks, Vice-President
 Michael W. Brown, Member
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member
 T. Beau Sang, Member

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor
 Annette M. Landers, Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
 Ronnie Lynch Gene Greene Jeff Boyer
 Thomas J. Pasquale Charlene Carter Randy Breech
 Christine Cozza

Commission received the minutes of the January 2nd & 7th, 2020 meetings prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Ms. Charlene Carter, a resident of 90 Pine Street, was recognized for *Privilege of Floor*. She described herself as a pet advocate and recounted some animal cruelty cases that she has encountered. She requested that the City Commission consider adding language to our Codified Ordinance Section 505.07 to define what a "proper shelter" is. This would be helpful to those charged with enforcement of our code. She suggested that a proper shelter should require four solid walls, a dry floor, a roof, and an appropriately sized door for the dog's size. The inner dimensions for the shelter should not be more than three to four times larger than the dog to allow for retention of body heat. At least one half of the surrounding area should be free of standing water. She would also like to see wording on the length and type of chain that can be used. Ms. Christine Cozza also spoke in support, recounting some of her experiences.

President Caldwell, as a pet advocate himself, said that he agrees that Commissioners should consider this request. Mr. Sang and others also agreed. Ms. Saunders offered to look into the matter since the State law gives some guidance, but is pretty open in wording. Chief Boyer reported that the police department gets plenty of calls, but there is usually no obvious violation. Tightening up the wording could help in enforcement. Commissioners thanked Ms. Carter for bringing the matter to their attention.

Mr. Thomas Pasquale, a resident of 321 Fourth Avenue, was recognized next for *Privilege of Floor*. He spoke of the problem that he and neighbors are having with the trash and spent oil being disposed of in the dumpster and oil receptacle on the City parking lot across from the Municipal Building. Oil is being spilled on the sidewalks, creating an unsanitary and slippery surface for pedestrians. The metal receptacle lid is being slammed at all hours of the night. Trash is ending up on the ground and blowing into neighboring yards. He has been mowing and weed-eating the grass in the vicinity. He asked that someone look into the matter.

In discussion, the City Manager explained that the City provides power and the space for the dumpster, but the contract for service is between Rumpke and some of the downtown business owners. The dumpster used to be

located on City property right outside of the Municipal Building, but was moved at the request of the business owners. Mr. Covey has served as the contact for the business owners in the past. Mr. Breech added that one problem is that the code to access the dumpster is being used by former employees of the downtown merchants and others. That code should be changed periodically to prevent unauthorized access. Mr. Pasquale questioned why the dumpster is on City property and if there might be another option for location. Mr. Pasquale showed some pictures of the affected area and made plans to send more by e-mail. The matter will be pursued further once these are received.

Mr. Greene was extended *Privilege of Floor*. He said that he wanted to clarify statements made in discussions about adding Veterans Day as a paid holiday. He said that employees received increases in four out of the five years he was City Manager, as well as receiving Christmas bonuses and an increase in the percent of pick-up that the City provides for their health insurance premiums.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Columbia Gas is starting another stage of their project, which will include businesses in the downtown business district of Second Avenue. There needs to be some discussion with them on where to place their meters and regulators. Mr. Fulks talked about the problem of sidewalks being sliced up. Mr. Lozier said that they are now replacing entire sections rather than small slices. Several Commissioners endorsed forcing Columbia Gas to repave entire streets where their cuts are extensive. Mr. Lozier said that this would require a change in our ordinances and would only affect portions of the project that have not already received code permits. Mr. Greene noted that some municipalities prorate the cost depending on the age of the pavement and the percent cut up.
- ODOT is planning to do some core work on SR 141. So far, the slip has not grown.
- City Maintenance crews have been cleaning catch basins and working on sewer lines and water leaks.
- The Visitor's Bureau plans to submit Gallipolis for HGTV's new "Hometown Takeover" program. Mr. Caldwell reported that he was interviewed as part of the application process. They will be interviewing others as well. The application deadline is this Friday.
- The Police Department got their new canine cop, a pup named "Chappo." The Ohio Valley Bank donated \$10,000 for the dog and his equipment. Everyone joined in thanking OVB for their generosity.
- We still have around \$45,000 remaining from the ODNr Grant to go toward necessary repairs at the pool. We need about \$71,000 total to cover the cost of a new roof, sand filters, and re-coating of the pool. Some groups have already indicated an interest in donating for the project. Mr. Lozier asked if there was anything prohibiting the City from soliciting donations. Ms. Noe will look into this. Mr. Breech suggested we consider using standing seam roofing as a more durable alternative to shingles.
- Mr. Lozier asked for dates for a work session. After a short discussion, Commissioners asked to be e-mailed with some possible dates to choose from.

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

- \$13,526.22 from Bob's Market for G.I.L. Christmas lights. Inv: 12/20/19. PO: 12/31/19.
- \$9,744.88 from Bob's Market for G.I.L. Christmas trees, etc.. Inv: 11/22/19. PO: 1/2/20.
- \$26,049.52 from Rumpke for December refuse pick-up. Inv: 12/18/19. PO: 1/2/20.
- \$30,609.54 from CMI for annual license support & maintenance. Inv: 1/2/20. PO: 1/9/20.
- \$4,227.00 from Ohio BWC for 2019 payroll true-up. Inv: 1/7/20. PO: 1/9/20.
- \$5,246.56 from AEP for December street lighting. Inv: 12/31/19. PO: 1/2/20.
- \$80,314.00 from AJ Stockmeister for 4 influent valves for WTP. Inv: 12/31/19. PO: 1/9/20.
- \$3,991.25 from TRZ Business Serv. for Notify Now annual fee. Inv: 1/16/20. PO: 1/21/20.
- \$5,791.45 from Superfleet for Dec & Jan gasoline purchases. Inv: 1/12/20. PO: 1/22/20

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

Ms. Landers asked Commissioners to formalize the suspension of a 3% water rate increase again for this year. New rates go into effect with the April billing. Last year, Commissioners approved an ordinance for sewer rate increases of 4% in 2019 & 2020. This was to be offset by a temporary suspension of the water rate increases in both those years, which was approved by motion. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to suspend this year's water rate increase, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Ms. Landers said that they are evaluating whether to introduce legislation to continue higher sewer rate increases beyond the current year.

Ms. Landers detailed the changes to the temporary appropriations included in Ordinance O2020-03 on tonight's agenda.

The City Solicitor told Commissioners that she is still seeking someone to serve as an Assistant Solicitor after her original choice became unavailable.

Mr. Gallagher said that he did not know that employees had received as many raises as Mr. Greene stated. However, he would still like to honor the veterans by making Veterans Day a paid holiday. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to add Veterans Day as a paid holiday, seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Gallagher requested a roll call vote and called the question. Upon roll call on the motion, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Brown voted yes. Mr. Fulks, Mr. Sang, and Mr. Caldwell voted no. Motion failed.

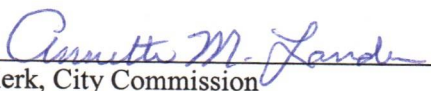
Mr. Greene announced that the GDC buildings that the City at one time had considered developing are now going to be used by the County. This will be an economic boost for the City.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2020-01 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE DEED TO THE VACATED PROPERTY ON PINE STREET IN THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-02 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH GALLIA COUNTY FOR EQUIPMENT AND LABOR**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Sang asked the purpose of this ordinance. Ms. Landers explained that it is the renewal of an annual contract with the County in case we should need to use their equipment. 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. O2020-03 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2019-37, SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020**. 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