

February 18, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, February 18, 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. Wallis 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

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor
 Annette M. Landers, Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
 Jason Stephens, State Representative
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
 Michelle Day, External Affairs Specialist, Columbia Gas
 Hudson Park, Engineer, Columbia Gas
 Joseph DiBenedetto, Engineer, Columbia Gas
 Josh Heising, Construction Coordinator, Columbia Gas
 Matt Wilson, Construction Coordinator, Columbia Gas
 Scott Cline, Construction Leader, Columbia Gas
 Eric Cottrill, Project Manager, R & R Pipeline

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| Ronnie Lynch | Gene Greene | Jeff Boyer |
| Randy Breech | Kim Canaday | Diana Parks |
| Karen Smith | Greg Smith | Roma Wood |
| Marvin Ours | Steven Wallis | Lester Plymale |

Commission received the minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

State Representative Jason Stephens was recognized for *Privilege of Floor*. Representative Stephens introduced himself and provided some biographical information. He took over the position vacated by Ryan Smith. He served for ten years as a Lawrence County Commissioner and nine years as Lawrence County Auditor.

Ms. Michelle Day, representing Columbia Gas, was extended *Privilege of Floor*. She introduced her team and told those present that they are entering Phase 2 of their project in Gallipolis, which is expected to go through the fall of 2020. Columbia Gas is switching customers from low to medium pressure pipe. Inside meters will be moved to outside where possible. Work will begin first with the replacement of main lines, followed by the individual service lines. They will coordinate with property owners at every step from prep work through safety checks/relighting of inside appliances, and restoration of areas damaged or disturbed by the project. She asked residents to contact them with any special needs or concerns they might have. People were invited to voice any questions they might have.

Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Wood both spoke of the good service they had received in their interactions with workers during Phase 1 of their project. Mr. Greene asked whether there would be any cost to customers. He was assured that the work they are doing should not result in any cost to residents. Mr. Lozier said that they are working around the City's paving schedule to avoid cutting any newly paved streets.

Mr. Wallis asked about the higher pressure pipes. This is to accommodate additional, modern amenities such as back-up generators, fire pits, outdoor grills, pool heaters, etc. Mr. Breech asked about indoor meters being moved to outside. His new, downtown building is on the property line and has several meters in the basement. He was told that they will work with individual property owners to find solutions for any special situations they might have. The intent is to have meters and regulators outside, but in some cases this will not be practical. They were also asked if they are prepared for increases in the number of customers, including commercial and industrial customers. They responded that increases in residential and commercial should not pose a problem, but industrial demands can vary greatly and would require evaluation prior to beginning any such project.

Ms. Day recognized Gallipolis in Bloom members present. Columbia Gas recently gave them a \$1,500 donation to help with this year's program. She also spoke briefly about Columbia Gas' outage alert program that helps enrolled customers stay informed of outages in their service area. Customers can enroll on-line for text, e-mail or voice call alerts.

Mr. Marvin Ours was granted *Privilege of Floor*. He asked if anyone was having issues with Suddenlink, the City's cable provider. He said that their service is "getting spotty" and their customer service is "going to pot." They sent him a \$60 bill for a service call they made without getting his prior approval. All of his efforts to resolve the issue have proven unsuccessful. Mr. Breech said that some of his tenants are also having problems. There was an extended discussion of his problem, but no ready answer in dealing with it. Representative Stephens told the group that the state is working to make it easier to obtain easements to lay wire in areas, such as ours, where the terrain does not allow for Wi-Fi service.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Our infrastructure seems to be holding up well in spite of the rain.
- The maintenance garage has been working on sewers and water leaks.
- Water well #6 has been upgraded.
- The youth (K-6th) basketball program went well with 201 players, 23 teams, and 120 games.
- Mr. Mike Allen is up for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Mr. Troy Johnson is up for re-appointment to the Planning Commission/Historic Preservation Review Board. Both have agreed to serve another term. Mr. Allen's term will be from 10/25/19 to 10/24/24. Mr. Johnson's would be from 1/1/20 to 12/31/26. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve these two appointments, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- Copies of the 2020 proposed budgets were distributed to Commissioners. They were asked to look them over for any questions they might have to discuss in the upcoming work session on February 25th.

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

Ms. Landers presented two invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$19,749.16 from OVB for the fire station bond due 2/24/20. Inv: 12/31/19. PO: 2/3/20.
- \$17,268.48 from the CCA Grant for unspent grant funds. Inv: 11/22/19. PO: 1/2/20.

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

Ms. Landers went over changes on tonight's agenda. Ordinance No. O2020-04 is renewal of the contract with Washington County for housing of prisoners at a cost of \$68/day. Ordinance No. O2020-05 amends the temporary appropriations to add \$51,440.28 for refund of unspent grant money.

The public hearing and first reading on the 2020 budget will be on March 3rd. Second reading will be on March 18. This will allow the budget to go into effect by April 1st. Everything balances in the budget, with concerns remaining for the General Fund and Sewer Fund. We will need to look for opportunities to trim expenses further or to increase revenues.

Ms. Landers requested executive session to discuss personnel in the Auditor's Office.

Commissioners were advised that there are five committees that the Commissioners serve on that need to be filled: Family and Children First, Threat Risk Assessment, Ariel Theatre, Gallipolis in Bloom, and Our House. Ms. Landers asked them to be thinking about which one each wants to serve on for the next meeting.

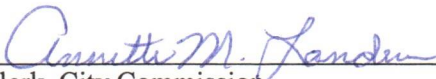
Because of the absence of Mr. Sang, the emergency ordinances on tonight's agenda will be read as first readings.

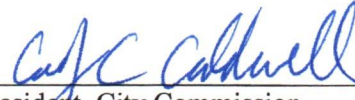
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2020-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THE HOUSING OF PRISONERS**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. The City Solicitor told Commissioners that there was a problem with the wording of the contract, which she will correct before signing. 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. O2020-05 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2019-37, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2020-03, SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Gallagher. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Brown made a motion to enter executive session for personnel in the Auditor's Office, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to enter executive session for personnel in the Auditor's Office, all votes were yes. President Caldwell announced that there would be no business following executive session. Upon completion 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