

April 7, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter and Emergency Ohio Sub House Bill 197.

Commission President Cody Caldwell called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call, the following members were present by remote access:

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

Michael C. Fulks, Vice-President, was remotely connected prior to the City Manager report.

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)  
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (remote access)  
 Shelly Clonch, Assistant Auditor (in person)  
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)  
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)  
 Ronnie Lynch (in person)      Jeff Boyer (remote)  
 Mindy Caldwell (remote)      Marvin Ours (remote)  
 Tasha unknown last name (remote)

Commission received the minutes of the March 17, 2020 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

There were no requests for *Privilege of Floor*. President Caldwell asked that during the pandemic-mandated virtual meetings, anyone desiring *Privilege of Floor* should contact the City Building ahead of time. This will allow for a more orderly flow of business during the meetings.

The City Manager updated Commissioners on COVID-19 protocols, which have been implemented and amended since the last meeting. Buildings continue to operate on lock-down with only essential employees reporting for work. Business is now conducted exclusively by phone, e-mail, and drop box. We continue to practice social distancing, hand washing, and frequent wiping down of surfaces. We have closed the basketball courts, playgrounds, and skate park and are monitoring them as able. We may have to take down the basketball hoops if people refuse to comply. As voted at the last meeting, we are waiving shut-off fees for water customers and no longer disconnecting for delinquent payments, but customers will still be responsible for paying their bills eventually. The State has come out with HB197, which requires these same protections for water customers. So far, we have been able to retain all City services to residents and customers. He is looking into how FMLA may apply in the current situation. We will adapt protocols as may become necessary.

Mr. Lozier informed Commissioners that Mr. Bill Grubaugh has been hired as Project Engineer. The COVID-19 protocols have prevented him from being introduced to all departments yet. He has mainly been working on organizing the files in his office and safety issues.

Mr. Lozier requested executive session for personnel: employees' compensation. This will be a separate Zoom meeting after the present one.

Ms. Clonch presented the March Financial Statement for approval. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Brown. Because of the virtual meeting, we will be doing roll call votes instead of voice votes. Upon roll call to approve the March Financial Statement, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor told Commissioners that the Municipal Court's doors are locked and they are operating on a limited basis right now due to the Governor's guidelines. She is also looking into changes to FMLA and will be sending out notices for sick leave.

Mr. Gallagher encouraged all citizens to complete the 2020 Census online, saying that it is quick and simple, but crucial for ensuring federal dollars for local services. President Caldwell agreed.

Mr. Fulks urged residents to support local businesses as they struggle to survive the current crisis. President Caldwell echoed his concern.

President Caldwell announced that the absentee ballot deadline for Ohio's Primary Election has been extended to April 28<sup>th</sup>. Ballots are available for printing on the county's website ([www.gallianet.net](http://www.gallianet.net)) or by calling (740-446-1600) before noon on April 25<sup>th</sup> and requesting a paper ballot by mail from the Gallia County Board of Elections. Ballots must be postmarked by April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lozier added that he has been participating in various conference calls regarding emergency relief. It is hoped that the fourth package that the federal government is putting together will include some relief for municipalities. He promised to keep Commissioners updated as events unfold.

There was discussion that Commissioners had not received copies of the ordinance on the amended agenda, although it was noted on their original agenda that it was in the works. The amendment is to appropriate \$15,000 in the "working gear" line of the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for two grants for police protective vests and in-car cameras. Ms. Noe noted that there is a deadline for the grant. Commissioners agreed to have Mr. Lozier read the ordinance in its entirety to them. They asked for a copy of the ordinance to be sent to them afterward. There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2020-11 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2020-06, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**. Mr. Fulks 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.

Mr. Fulks made a motion to enter executive session for personnel: employee compensation, seconded by Mr. Brown. President Caldwell announced that would be no business afterward. He thanked everyone for attending and expressed his hopes for everyone to stay safe and healthy. Upon roll call to enter executive session, all votes were yes. Upon completion of executive session, Commission returned to regular session. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Clerk, City Commission

  
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President, City Commission