

May 5, 2020

The Gallipolis City Commission met in virtual regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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 C. Fulks, Vice-President  
 Michael W. Brown, Member  
 Albert "Tony" Gallagher, Member  
 T. Beau Sang, Member

Others attending were:

Theodore R. Lozier, City Manager (in person)  
 Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor (remote access)  
 Annette M. Landers, City Auditor (in person)  
 Dean Wright, Gallipolis Daily Tribune (remote access)  
 Ronnie Lynch (in person)      Karen McCarty (remote access)

Commission received the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

The City Manager gave an update on COVID-19. The State has issued a new order for COVID-19 that is effective from May 1st thru May 29th. It sets dates for the easing of restrictions. For example, manufacturers can open beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Retail establishments can begin opening on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The State is doing more testing, which may ease restricted access to our administrative offices. The Police Department and Utility Billing Office are getting plexi-glass shields for their customer service windows. We re-opened the drive thru window this week.

Most May activities have either been cancelled or postponed. Mr. Lozier listed some of the events affected. The State's orders specify no parades or festivals. Whether Memorial Day activities can go forward and in what form will depend on State guidelines and what other municipalities are doing. School officials are working with the Health Department to plan some type of special event for GAHS graduates. They are considering some sort of "car rally," possibly on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The City's children's ball program has been cancelled. We are doing some already-funded repairs to the swimming pool, but are not sure if or when it will open this season.

The budget looks about like what we had anticipated. We are keeping very close watch. The City Auditor has more on this topic in her report.

With all of the recent rain, the slips on SR141 and SR588 are very active. Mr. Lozier is working closely with the State to urge repairs.

The City Auditor reported that the Workers Comp dividend check came in. Gallipolis received a total of \$59,460. \$4,239.80 of that was applied to our May 2020 premium. The balance remitted to us was \$55,220.20. According to the BWC (and verified by our State audit team), this amount can be spent in any way we wish, with the Governor and BWC preferring that it go toward COVID-19 public health related expenses. The City Manager and Auditor agree that the most pressing need at present is to preserve full police coverage for the benefit of our businesses and residents. Reductions in hours due to General Fund revenue shortfalls had been under discussion. Mr. Fulks made a motion to dedicate the \$55,220.20 BWC dividend to the General Fund to retain police coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic, seconded by Mr. Sang. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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First half property taxes came in at the end of April. The General Fund received \$87,715.44, which is about \$4,500 less than 1<sup>st</sup> half 2019. This possibly indicates that fewer people paid 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> half payments upfront. We will see if this is the case when 2<sup>nd</sup> half distributions come in August.

Ms. Landers presented the April Financial Statement for approval. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to approve the April Financial Statement, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. She compared 2019 to 2020 January to April revenues to the General Fund. This year's revenues were about \$26,000 (2.5%) less than last year's. Court and Income Tax revenues were noticeably more impacted than some other categories, but that impact was mitigated somewhat by the BWC dividend. She promised to send Commissioners a copy of the General Fund revenue comparison report along with a breakdown of the first half distribution.

The City Solicitor reported that the doors to the Justice Center have been re-opened. They are still practicing social distancing and are limiting Court entry to those actually involved in cases.

The Gallia County Chamber of Commerce contacted Ms. Noe about potential liability issues should they go forward with the River Rec event. Ms. Noe told them that she could not see any liability issues from the City's perspective as long as the Governor allows for that type of event at that time. It is difficult to go forward with plans given the uncertainty.

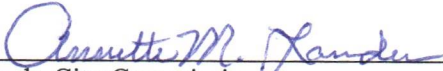
Ms. Noe stated that she is working on a draft of changes to the golf cart ordinance to include side-by-sides, as requested by Mr. Rusty Mittendorf at a prior meeting. She asked for the Commission's input before proceeding further. Ohio Revised Code does not specifically define "side-by-sides." It does define utility vehicles and under-speed vehicles, but she wondered if Commissioners wished more limited, strict requirements. Some aspects discussed were number of wheels, size requirements, whether it has a manufactured roof and an actual steering wheel, as well as other requirements under ORC (turn signals, brake lights, a windshield, license plate lights, and a horn). ORC now prohibits municipalities from permitting these vehicles to operate on roads having a speed limit over 35 mph. This limitation needs to be added to our present ordinance. Mr. Fulks said she seemed to be on the right track. President Caldwell asked if she had consulted with Mr. Mittendorf regarding these items. She had.

Mr. Gallagher said he had received feedback from three residents on the City's COVID-19 lockdown of our buildings. Two were supportive of the lockdown and one was not.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2020-14 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL FROM THE LEDGERS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS UTILITY BILLING OFFICE CERTAIN PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AS SET FORTH HEREIN**. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

The City Manager told Commissioners that he will be engaging in two conference calls this week: one with the State and one with Congressman Johnson. Police funding will be among the topics of discussion. Chief Boyer will be on that call, as well.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

  
 Clerk, City Commission

  
 President, City Commission