

March 1, 2022

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 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 followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Albert "Tony" Gallagher, President (in person)
William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President (in person)
Michael W. Brown, Member (in person)
Michael C. Fulks, Member (in person)
R. William "Bill" Jenkins, 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 (in person)
Ronnie Lynch (in person) Jeff Boyer (in person)
Joy Elliott (in person) Keith Elliott (in person)
Lester Plymale (in person) Marvin Ours (in person)
Randy Breech (in person) Scott Foote (in person)

The commission received the minutes of February 15, 2022, prior to this meeting. Dr. Thomas made a motion to accept the February 15th minutes, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of floor was granted to Mr. Scott Foote of Zack and Scotty's restaurant. Mr. Foote voiced his concerns about food trucks that have been coming into town the past couple of months, in particular, one on January 22nd. He said it is not fair that no fees are being paid and isn't happy with the way things are going. Mr. Foote said that he was told in November there would be no food trucks in December and there was, he came in December and was told there would be no food trucks in January and there was again. He asked why food vendors are coming in and not paying taxes like the other businesses have to. There was a meeting previously to update the food truck ordinance but he felt like he was being bullied. An ordinance was drafted but was not discussed. The City Manager, Mr. Saunders, told him that we were unaware of the food truck coming into town due to it being on a Saturday. Code Enforcement did reach out to the individual afterward to let them know the correct procedures. He said the food trucks that were here in December and January fell under a "special event" and did follow procedures. Mr. Foote stated that there were also other vendors too who were selling items that were not food carts. He felt that anyone selling anything in the City should have to pay fees. Mr. Gallagher informed him that the commission will discuss the issue. Mr. Fulks stated that he remembered that an updated ordinance was drafted but then was opposed by Mr. Foote. Mr. Jenkins said that any businesses that are concerned should schedule a meeting with the solicitor to sit down and discuss what other areas do and come up with a reasonable solution to present to the commission.

The 2022 budget hearing was opened. City Auditor Ms. Clonch explained that budget meetings were held with herself, Mr. Saunders, and individual department supervisors. These meetings were followed up with budget work sessions with the City Commission. The main area of concern is with our

general fund. The general fund had a carryover into 2022 of \$434,175.93. We had a larger carryover mainly due to general fund expenses being offset with Cares Act funds, ARP funds, and BWC dividends. When comparing our estimated revenue and expenditures for the coming year, we will be cutting into at least half of that carryover. She stated we need to be mindful and smart on expenses and how the next tranche of the ARP funds is spent. There are increased costs to payroll this year from last year due to employees taking advantage of the shared works plan in 2021 and this year employees are back to full payroll.

Mr. Saunders added that it is a really tight budget and we have been emphasizing that to all of our supervisors. We are trying to have better checks and balances in terms of spending, especially on blanket purchase orders. Over the years the general fund has been subsidized with unexpected revenue such as TIF monies, BWC dividends, and Cares Act/ARP funds and these funds aren't going to be there any longer. The income tax was also discussed and Mr. Jenkins asked about revenue being the same as it was when he was City Manager and why it hasn't increased. Mr. Saunders said that this was mainly due to the population decrease and fewer individual filers. Mr. Lynch stated due to covid, businesses have fewer employees, and unemployment rates increased.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Discussed infrastructure issues we currently are facing with a sinkhole at Cedar Street that is off the road near the back of the McCalla property. An excavation company has looked at it and it can be fixed with time and labor by City employees. There is an electric pole in the middle of it that AEP came and anchored. The encouraging thing is that it does not appear to be getting any bigger. There is also a slip located on Oakwood Drive and the County Engineer visited the site with him. Pictures of the slip were sent to the project manager with OPWC and he encouraged the City to apply for funding. He would like to keep heavy trucks off that area.
- Representatives with ABM would like to come in with a full team on Thursday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m. to give a presentation and discuss their recommendations.
- Attended a land bank meeting at the county with the code enforcement officer. There is a statewide program with ODOD that provides a \$500,000 grant. The County has submitted the application and the City has several properties listed on the application.
- Met with Karen Smith of Gallipolis in Bloom on coordination for the coming season.
- Winterfest was a success with approximately 1,200 people in attendance and he had positive feedback on the event.
- Will meet with a representative from Senator Brown's office next Thursday and hopes to receive some guidance on infrastructure funding.
- Great Lakes Community Action plans to start the surveying and mapping of water/sewer lines the week of March 21st.
- Will be out of the office on Friday, March 4th, to attend a seminar in Columbus.

Fire Chief Mr. Elliott discussed the USDA grant that the fire department applied for. We received notice of approval, but the grant award was half of what we were expecting. The approved grant package is for 15 air packs at a cost of \$145,000. USDA will provide a grant of \$50,000 and the City would have to enter into a fixed rate (2.125%) loan agreement over a 10-year period for the remaining \$95,000. The loan is a requirement in accepting the grant funds. The fire department needs a total of 30 air packs. Dr. Thomas asked how soon the necessity would be to replace the remaining 15 air packs. Mr. Elliott said that they would apply for funds to replace the remaining packs in 2023 in hopes that the cap on the grant would be higher and we could receive more funding.

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

- \$27,394.15 from Rumpke for January refuse pickup. Inv: 1/18/22. PO: 2/2/22.
- \$3,048.57 from Smith Chevrolet for police cruiser repairs. Inv: 12/6/21. PO: 12/7/21.
- \$86,818.59 from Jefferson Health Plan for March health insurance. Inv: 2/1/22. PO: 2/2/22.
- \$6,234.00 from Great Lakes Community Action for GIS mapping project. Inv: 1/28/22. PO: 2/8/22.
- \$5,009.27 from Walter H Drane Co for codified ordinance updates. Inv: 1/27/22. PO: 2/8/22.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve payments, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Jenkins asked how many copies of the codified ordinances does the update from Walter Drane take care of. He would like to see the list of those to who the updates go to that have an ordinance book.

The City Solicitor stated that the governor signed the house bill this week allowing zoom meetings for a quorum and vote.

Mr. Brown shared the following complaints that he has received and observed.

*Someone is leaving their white Tesla parked at one of the electric charging stations with the nozzle attached all night long.

*There is a truck with a camper attached that has a flat tire and has been sitting along the street/sidewalk at 120 Kineon Drive for at least a month. Across the street from there is a car parked in the driveway with the windows busted out, debris in the yard, and a broken window on the house.

*There are semi-trucks coming up the 800 and 900 blocks of First Avenue. A sign is located at 1st and Pine Street that states "Thru Trucks Prohibited". He suggested that it should say "Thru Semi Trucks Prohibited". Mr. Saunders said that semi-trucks are not supposed to be on First Avenue and Police Chief Boyer stated that it is usually trucks dropping off loads at nearby restaurants trying to get back on State Route 7. Mr. Brown said he has seen numerous semi-trucks come through there.

*Has had complaints about cars parking across sidewalks, especially at 720 Third Avenue. Chief Boyer stated that there has been a warning there but we probably need to evaluate the whole City instead of just picking on one car. Mr. Brown said he has also had complaints about employees parking their vehicles on the sidewalk at Zanzi's Pizza. There is also a white Dodge Ram parked along the street at 856 First Avenue in the yellow striped lines close to a fire hydrant for over two weeks.

*There have been several complaints about bricks about to fall off the side of the building at 700 Second Avenue. He has mentioned in the past about putting a barricade around that area.

*He has noticed the trash cans in the park are not being emptied on the weekends and it looks very bad for visitors coming to Gallipolis. Mr. Saunders stated that we are trying to cut back on overtime due to budget constraints.

*It has been mentioned to him about the Chamber of Commerce charging \$10.00 per entrant in the 4th of July parade. He did not see how they could charge when they are using City streets.

*The digital sign in the park still has the Winterfest displayed on it and hasn't been removed. Mr. Saunders said we need to look into different software for it because it is not very user-friendly.

*The asphalt ramp at the crosswalk going from 2nd Avenue over to the City Park has been moved and he believes it was done during snow removal.

*He commented on the Winterfest event map that had the bandstand in the park listed as a gazebo.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2022-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER NO. 925.07(B), (1)(A) AND (2)(A), SEWERS, RATES, SEWER SERVICE CHARGES (INSIDE CITY AND OUTSIDE CITY), OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS OHIO.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to

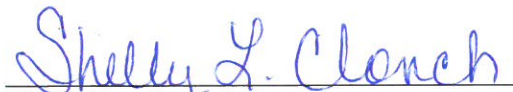
place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Mr. Jenkins asked what the increase was and Mr. Saunders responded it was 6% for sewer only and 0% water. Mr. Jenkins said that he knew a water increase was not done last year, which is crazy because we need reserves in the water fund. We are looking at doing a water distribution system upgrade in the future that would cost millions of dollars and the 3% water rate increase needs to be done annually. Ms. Clonch explained that as of right now, the sewer fund is in need of the extra funds due to a much lower fund balance than water and high debt service payments. Mr. Jenkins said that he is not against the 6% sewer increase, but he thinks that we need to also put on the 3% water increase. It was discussed that if it was agreed to do the increase, we could prepare the legislation for the next meeting. 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. O2022-05 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO SET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. 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. O2022-06 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Brown made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. 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. O2022-07 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR CHEMICALS AND QUICKLIME.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote to place this ordinance on first reading, all votes were yes.

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


Clerk, City Commission


President, City Commission