

November 5, 2013

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

Commission President James Jay Cremeens called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

- James Jay Cremeens, President
- Steven E. Wallis, Vice-President
- Michael W. Brown, Member
- James A. Cozza, Member
- W. Matthew Johnson, Member

Others attending were:

- Randall J. Finney, City Manager
- Adam R. Salisbury, City Solicitor
- Annette M. Landers, City Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer
- Amber Gillenwater, Gallipolis Daily Tribune
- Michelle Miller, Gallia Hometown Herald
- Tony Gallagher
- Ronnie Lynch
- Dottie Chestnut
- Mary Lee Marchi
- Teresa Crothers
- Janet Johnson
- Joy Elliott
- Marvin Vanderberg
- Dallas Love
- Bud Crothers
- Brea Elliott
- Bill Gene Johnson
- Keith Elliott
- Clint Patterson
- Diana Love
- Doris Crothers
- Jonathan Elliott

Commission received the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, objections, or additions, these minutes were approved.

Privilege of Floor was granted to Clarence (Bud) and Doris Crothers, who live on Oak Drive in Green Township, to appeal a utility bill. They explained that their water line broke in the galvanized pipe on their side of the water meter. They were granted a sewer adjustment of \$664.37, but were requesting an additional adjustment to their water bill. They said that they had tried to determine where the leak was, but could not find it quickly because the water did not come to the surface of the ground. Their daughter told the Commissioners that she received a credit upon appeal to the Commission some years back. The Crothers claimed that the galvanized pipe was the same type as all of their neighbors have coming off of their meters, so it must have been installed by the City. All of these houses were built in the 1950's. The Commissioners doubted that the City would have installed any pipe on the customer's side of the meters and speculated that the pipe was installed by the contractor who did the work for residents in their development. In any case, the City is not responsible for the pipes on the customer's side of the meter. However, the Commissioners did sympathize with the plight of these people since it was their first leak. Mr. Brown made a motion to forgive the excess water consumption, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- WPC Facility Headworks Project – The contractor has begun excavation for a by-pass line.

- Demolition Grant – The first three houses are down. Mr. Finney distributed a list which showed the status of the houses that the Commission had earlier approved for demolition. The next four houses are ready to be demolished. Asbestos is being removed as needed. The cost for all seven of the initial houses is estimated at \$42,340, leaving around \$46,000 from the grant. There was discussion of adding 59 Garfield and 19 Vine Street. Mr. Brown voiced concern over demolishing rather than rehabilitating houses. The grant only covers demolition. Mr. Wallis made a motion to put the next six houses on the list to go out to bid, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, Mr. Brown voted no. All other votes were yes.
- Parking problem in front of Rice's Furniture – After speaking to the parties involved, it was decided that one 30 minute parking sign would be sufficient for the front of Rice's Furniture. The second sign will be removed.
- French Art Colony request – The French Art Colony requested permission to host carriage rides around the City Park on the evening of Friday, December 6th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in conjunction with their 2013 Holiday Tour. The Commissioners had no objections to their event. Commissioners need to talk about community investment donations at the next meeting.
- VESI electric rates – Mr. Finney has been negotiating electric rates with Volunteer Energy Solutions, Inc. It appears that we are getting the best rate available with Dayton Light and Power, our current provider under their contract.
- Workers Compensation – Mr. Finney recently met with Comp Management to discuss our rate for next year, which is expected to be \$89,000. They need to calculate the cost of the police officer claim so that Mr. Salisbury can arrange to collect their portion of our increase from the County.
- Appointments to Committees – Mr. Wallis made a motion to approve appointment of Ms. Lori Young to the City Park Advisory Board, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Jay Caldwell to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes. Mr. Brown made a motion to appoint Ms. Nancy Childs and Ms. Vera Snedaker to the Historic Preservation Review Board, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.
- Initial Independence Program – Mr. Chris Frye, who is involved with the Initial Independence Program, the program to integrate GDC residents into the community, would like to share the positive impacts of this program with the Commission in hope of gaining their active support. Mr. Wallis mentioned that GDC employees are planning a rally at the City Park to enlist support for retaining their jobs. The two agendas are in direct conflict. Mr. Finney said that the State seems determined to go forward with reductions. Mr. Salisbury pointed out that our zoning ordinances could cause problems with any 6-bed or larger facilities. Their plans seem to center around smaller groups per residence. Commissioners asked that Mr. Frye come to one of their meetings.
- Christmas Lights in the Park – Mr. Finney discussed the hanging of the Christmas lights in the City Park, which will require the use of one or more bucket trucks. Mr. Salisbury advised that our insurance would not cover anyone other than employees using our truck. There was discussion of borrowing or renting additional trucks to get the work completed in a timely manner.
- Mr. Finney will be out of the office on November 14th and 15th. Mr. Swisher will be covering during this time. He asked for someone to attend the CIC meeting at 7 a.m. on November 15th. President Cremeens volunteered to attend.
- Mr. Finney requested that Commissioners come to him with projects first rather than approaching City employees. This is causing some confusion and concern for employees.
- Mr. Finney requested executive session to discuss property and police personnel.

In further discussion of the stop signs at the intersection of Third Avenue and Olive Street, there was speculation that the signs may have originally been placed there to aid in the flow of traffic from GDC.

The City Auditor presented the following invoices over \$3,000 for approval:

- \$3,523.56 from Walter Drane Co. for Codified Ordinance update. Invoice 8/26/13. P.O. 9/3/13.
- \$21,281.19 from Boggs Construction for MH road. Inv. 8/9/13. P.O. 9/6/13.
- \$8,756 from Boggs Construction for remainder MH Road. Inv. 9/30/13. P.O. 10/1/13.
- \$3,210.75 from Bob's Mkt. for lights, wires & adapters. Inv. 10/7/13. P.O. 10/16/13

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

Ms. Landers reminded the Commissioners of the Budget Commission Hearing on Thursday, November 7th, at 10:15 a.m. in the Law Library.

Ms. Landers informed the Commissioners that Max Uhl was planning to come back to review the results of the performance audit on Tuesday, November 19th at 6 p.m. Commissioners discussed conflicts with scheduling. They would like to postpone the meeting to January or February. Ms. Landers will contact Mr. Uhl to re-schedule.

Mr. Johnson gave a report on the activities of the Gallipolis in Lights Committee. They have assembled around 260 light balls so far. In order to hang so many lights with their 3300 feet of cord, it will take a couple of weekends and probably the rental of another bucket truck. The balls weigh ten pounds dry. When they get wet or covered with ice, assuring that they are hanging securely becomes a greater concern.

Mr. Johnson asked to re-open the subject of traffic flow on Court Street. For the benefit of those attending, Mr. Johnson went over the proposal to change traffic flow to one way on Court Street from Second Avenue to Third Avenue. He also went over plans for traffic flow in the Municipal Parking lot. He said that these changes would be a way to manage the hazard of traffic trying to turn onto Second Avenue without benefit of a traffic light. In order to get a traffic light, the City would need to pay \$8,800 for a traffic flow study. Mr. Wallis stated that he did not think a change was necessary. Mr. Brown agreed with Mr. Wallis. He added that a "no left turn" sign could be placed at Court and Second. President Cremeens brought up his concern with congestion on Third Avenue from school activity traffic. This problem could propagate well beyond just Court Street. Mr. Brown wanted to know who brought up the idea of turning Court Street to one-way. He said that people are worried about the change. The discussion became quite intense. Mr. Johnson made a motion to change Court Street to one-way from Second Avenue to Third Avenue and change the traffic flow as discussed in the Municipal Parking Lot. The motion died for lack of a second.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading a Resolution No. R2013-08 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FOR USE BY THE CITY IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014 AS HEREIN DESCRIBED.** Mr. Wallis made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt this resolution on first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to suspend the rules and adopt this resolution on first reading, all votes were yes.


There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading a Resolution No. R2013-09 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO REGISTER THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE 2014 AMERICA IN BLOOM CONTEST.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt this resolution on first reading, seconded by Mr. Cozza. Upon roll call to suspend the rules and adopt this resolution on first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency an Ordinance No. O2013-64 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE PERMITS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLICIT FROM THE OCCUPANT OF A VEHICLE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 371.06(B)(2) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

Mr. Brown made a motion to enter executive session to discuss police personnel and buying and selling of property per ORC 121.22(G)(1), seconded by Mr. Wallis. 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 City Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission