

May 16, 2022

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 5:00 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by Commission President Tony Gallagher calling the meeting to order.

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)
Ronnie Lynch (in person) Jay Cremeens (in person)
Roma Wood (in person) Jennine Wood (in person)
Marvin Ours (in person) Kirk Frazee (in person)
Lois Carter (in person) Audette Gooch (in person)
Keith Elliott (in person) Jeff Boyer (in person)
Pam Bryan (in person) Arthur (remote access)

The commission received the minutes of May 2, 2022, prior to this meeting. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to accept the May 2nd minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Mr. Larry Taylor with Trebel Energy. Mr. Taylor worked with Volunteer Energy prior to their bankruptcy this past March and recently joined Trebel Energy. All residents reverted back to Columbia Gas when Volunteer Energy filed for bankruptcy. He offered for his company, Trebel Energy, to serve as a broker for the City to get the best rates for our gas aggregation program. Mr. Gallagher asked if we would still receive a civic grant as we did with Volunteer Energy. Mr. Taylor said probably not but, if necessary, negotiations could be done. Mr. Taylor said we could go with a fixed rate or a variable rate but the market right now is high and rates change on a daily basis. He would work on the City's behalf to lock in the best rates upon authorization by the City Manager. Mr. Brown made a motion to move forward with legislation to enter into an agreement with Trebel Energy, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Gallipolis Railroad Freight Museum had a successful open house and was recently awarded a TAP award worth \$600,000 through the Ohio Department of Transportation. He will be involved in an upcoming meeting with the State and the museum board members on June 14, 2022.
- Met with representatives with ODOT at his office and discussed upcoming projects. Paving for State Route 7 is scheduled for 2023.
- ABM Energy will be here on June 8th for their kickoff meeting. On June 9th they plan on visiting City sites and will advise us prior of the approximate times.

- Burgess & Niple have tentatively scheduled core drilling for next week. The road will be closed in the area and local residents will have to make arrangements for parking.
- Attended meetings last week including CIC, Visitors Center, Gallipolis In Lights, and Mayors Partnership.
- City crews have been busy getting cemeteries mowed for Memorial Day, doing some street patching, and cleaning up the public use area from the recent high water.
- Aleena Farley with the Health Department reached out about putting “No Smoking” signs at the skatepark as she discussed with the commission at a previous meeting during the privilege of the floor. He recommended that we act on it. Mr. Gallagher recommended that the signs also say “No Vaping”. Mr. Jenkins stated that he thought eventually we should pass an ordinance so it can be enforced at all parks. A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins to authorize the Health Department to place “No Smoking/No Vaping” signs at the skatepark, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Auditor presented one invoice over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$27,394.15 from Rumpke for April refuse pickup. Inv: 4/20/22. PO: 5/4/22

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

Ms. Clonch presented the April 2022 financial statement for approval. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve the April financial statement, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The Auditor also informed the commission that we received the first half settlement from the County Auditor for property taxes. She will get them a copy of the breakdown as soon as it is completed.

The City Solicitor stated that the zoom/telephonic meeting legislation expires July 1, 2022, and there are bigger cities that are trying to get it extended.

Mr. Gallagher spoke of the recent book sale at the library and how beneficial it was to the children who could buy a book for ten cents.

Mr. Fulks said he had to call the Water/Sewer Department for an issue at his residence. He wanted to express his thanks and stated that the City employees do a great job. Also, he said that last Friday was the first “First Friday” and it was very well attended considering the weather.

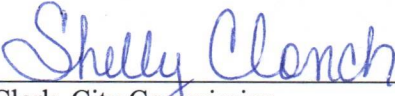
There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2022-15 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FORMALLY ACCEPT A SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (SOPEC) GRANT ISSUED TO THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading an Ordinance No. O2022-16 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT FOR VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Dr. Thomas stated that there was no conflict between this ordinance and his professional business, as he no

longer accepts the City's VSP coverage. Upon roll call to adopt this ordinance on second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading an Ordinance No. O2022-17 entitled **AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE GALLIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022, THE ISSUE OF 1% LEVY ON INCOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIRS AND/OR REPLACEMENT MAINTENANCE OR CONSTRUCTION OF OTHER CITY INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING PARKS AND GENERAL OPERATIONS AND SERVICES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, INCLUDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place this ordinance on first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Mr. Brown spoke up and said that he doesn't think it should be voted on at all and he will work against it. He felt that it was a waste of money and a waste of time. There were members from the audience who wished to speak and Mr. Gallagher gave them a time limit of five minutes each. Ms. Pam Bryan stated that the language should read that it is an additional 1% tax. Mr. Marvin Ours said he thought the City should look into annexation and drop the income tax to a ½ percent. The City Manager Mr. Saunders spoke up and said that we are very thin on our budget and have no reserves to pay for projects. He realizes the economic climb, but we need funds now in our General Fund for paving and emergency services. We cannot wait for annexation which can take years. Mr. Jenkins stated that we could always look at a levy, but the only fair way is to have an income tax increase. City Solicitor Ms. Noe said that other law enforcement agencies are paying their officers higher salaries and we are at risk of losing the officers we have. Ms. Roma Wood said that we need to work on getting Holzer Hospital annexed and Mr. Saunders said that is on his agenda. Mr. Jay Cremeens said public meetings are needed to discuss an income tax increase. Mr. Saunders responded that we plan to do that but right now he needs to get the ordinance passed to get it to the election board in a timely manner. Ms. Jennine Wood asked why 1% and not ½% or ¼% and Mr. Saunders said that we need the whole 1%. Commissioner Fulks said that he knows it is a bad time to ask for an increase but we are in need to keep our staff going and equipment updated. After discussion with the audience, a voice vote was held on the motion to place the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Fulks, and Mr. Gallagher voted yes and Mr. Brown voted no.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission