

October 3, 2022

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a regular session on Monday, October 3, 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 an invocation given by Mr. Gallagher.

Commission President Tony Gallagher called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Albert "Tony" Gallagher, President
William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President
Michael C. Fulks, Member
R. William "Bill" Jenkins, Member

Others attending were:

Dow W Saunders, City Manager		
Shelly L. Clonch, City Auditor		
Brynn S. Noe, City Solicitor		
Chad Vaughn, River Cities News (Zoom)		
Ronnie Lynch	Joy Elliott	Keith Elliott
Jeff Boyer	Claudia Miller	Dottie Chestnut
John Saunders	Scott Saunders	Lori Hall
Steven McDaniel	Carita McDaniel	Greg Hall
Lori Ellis	Tom Wiseman	Larry Miller
Brent Saunders	Crystal Wright	Randy Breech
Cole Massie	Scott Fooce	Chris Hess
Whitney Vilfer (Zoom)	Marvin Ours (Zoom)	Arthur (Zoom)

The commission received the minutes of September 20, 2022, prior to this meeting. Mr. Fulks made a motion to accept the September 20th minutes, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of floor was granted to Mr. Brent Saunders representing Holzer Hospital, Mr. Tom Wiseman and Larry Miller representing Ohio Valley Bank (OVB), and Mr. Cole Massie who was recently hired by the University of Rio Grande for economic development. Mr. Saunders said Holzer and OVB contributed funds to the University to help create the new position that Mr. Massie has taken. He said that it is necessary to have this position in place to hopefully bring in new businesses to the area and create jobs. We have a great industrial park with lots of opportunities that we need to take advantage of going forward. Mr. Massie introduced himself and stated he is originally from Jackson, Ohio, with a degree in public relations, and has been in this position for a month now. He said that he sees these great opportunities on the horizon and wants to see Southeast Ohio grow and prosper. He wanted to take this time to introduce himself to get connected with our local leaders and would gladly take any input that the commission had. Mr. Gallagher stated that the City looked forward to working with him.

Also addressing the commission for the privilege of the floor were Mr. John Saunders and Mr. Scott Saunders with Saunders Insurance Agency to discuss the City's property/liability insurance that is on first reading tonight. The proposal for 2022-2023 from USI Insurance which is in a pool with Public Entities Pool (PEP) came in at \$87,373.00 which is an 11.2% increase from last year. They have seen 10+% increases across a tough commercial property market. The City's main increase is from a property evaluation PEP recently completed, which hasn't been done since 2012 and called for a blanket 10 million increase in property values. In 2014, the City's insurance was with Travelers with a premium cost of around \$95,000.00, with that being 8 years ago, we are still saving significantly. The City Solicitor said she wanted

to mention that the City Manager has previously addressed any concerns with his relationship with both John and Scott and that he has no financial interest at all in Saunders Insurance Agency. He has not been involved in any of the negotiations for the renewal. The City's property/liability insurance agreement is with PEP specifically, whom the City has been in business with for several years prior to his hiring.

Lastly, for the privilege of the floor, Mr. Scott Fooce with Zach and Scotty's restaurant approached the commission with concerns about the pharmaceutically challenged that he is dealing with on Court Street that is affecting his business. He said that there are a lot of them being brought into the community and put up in houses. In the last month alone, he has dealt with someone outside his business trying to sell Fentanyl, a person trying to accost his wife, an individual found with a needle in their arm, drug paraphernalia, and they are becoming belligerent when confronted. He also said Daylight Donuts were getting a lot of these individuals coming off the bike path where there is homeless sleeping in tents. If we keep allowing this to happen, no one is going to want to bring their business to our City. Having a daycare and a grade school nearby, this is not something we want around our children. Mr. Fulks asked him out of all of his complaints, how many of them were brought to the Chief of Police or the City Manager? Mr. Fooce said that he reached out and they came to him to discuss the issue. Mr. Fulks stated that if the Police Department is not aware of when these things are happening that they cannot deal with the issues and we cannot just run the homeless out of town. Mr. Fooce said these people are not homeless and are being put in houses by Integrated Services. The City Manager stated that we have increased our visibility of the police in the area of Court Street.

Mr. Randy Breech spoke up and said that as a property owner, he sees the issue all the time and has even lost renters. He had a renter photograph a drug deal going on in front of his shop and the renter said he was told by the Police Department that they could not do anything unless it was on film. Chief Boyer spoke and said that just because you have a picture, you cannot prove that it is drugs without valid proof. He said that he has to catch it on them because he cannot prove what is on the camera. The Solicitor said that she has seen where people call after the incident takes place and they need to call when they actually see it happening because most likely the individuals will be gone when the officers get there. Mr. Fooce wanted clarification in what situation would he need to call the police. Ms. Noe replied that if they are causing a danger to themselves or the public then yes you would call. She stated there are situations being brought up tonight where no one called the police and they need people to call when the situations are happening so the police can respond. Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Fooce if there was any particular time of day when he sees the issues he has brought up. Mr. Fooce said that it happens a lot at night but pretty much all day too with him seeing people passed out on benches from the night before. Mr. Gallagher asked if anyone knew how many homes there are in the City that they are putting homeless or indigent people in. The City Manager said that he and the Code Enforcement Officer were trying to get an idea of how many properties there are and how many people live in these properties. He suggested meeting with the different treatment centers to get on the same page and possibly forming a coalition.

Mr. Jenkins said that one of the reasons that we are asking for a tax increase is because if we don't get one, we are going to have to cut our police force as it is now because a majority of our income tax supports our Police Department. An additional tax increase would give us the ability to fund more officers. The City Manager said that we would like to get our General Fund back to how it was ten years ago and rebuild it because we have a lot of work to do. Mr. Steven McDaniel spoke up and wanted to know where all of the money went over the years and why increasing the income tax would be the answer. Mr. Jenkins said the population in our town has decreased over the years which changed our City status and also caused us to bring in less income tax. With our current budget, we cannot compete with other public entity's wages causing us to lose employees.

Mr. Chris Hess asked to speak and said that he is new to the area as he moved from California where he owned a potato chip company. Mr. Hess said that one of the reasons he chose to move to this area was to get away from the drug problem. He said they are very excited to be here and have been contemplating bringing their facility here but do not know what they are going to do yet. As he has been here, he is starting to see the issues going on and he questions if he would want to bring his business here. He said that he did not know we had a Police Department in the City because he had never seen an officer. Mr. Hess stated that one evening he went out to get a sandwich in town and was propositioned by a lady for prostitution. The Solicitor again reiterated that the City cannot know the issues going on and do

something if you do not call the police. Mr. McDaniel spoke up again and said what worries him is the number of halfway houses with one being right next to the grade school. He said it also troubles him that when individuals are asking the commission questions, they do not know the answers, especially with how many halfway houses are in the City. The City Manager stated that this is not only a City-wide issue but the drug problem is a region-wide issue.

Ms. Crystal Wright with Cardinal Recovery spoke up and said the house by the school is for women who have had recovery in their life and are now getting back on their feet. They are not a halfway house, treatment facility, or sober living facility. All of the women have full-time jobs and there is no danger as they do not house anyone with sexual crimes, arsonists, etc. Their goal is to make a difference in these women's lives. She said if we came together to fix the issue instead of placing the blame on each other we could make a change. The City Manager said we could hold a meeting to discuss the issue further.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The OVRDC had its quarterly meeting Friday at the City Park with approximately 100 people in attendance including himself, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Jenkins. The meeting gave the City good exposure and the park looked beautiful.
- Attended an open house in Logan with the Ohio EPA to keep up with the infrastructure law and how much they will be rolling out.
- We are preparing to submit the OPWC grant applications for both paving and the Blue Fountain lift station.
- Will be doing a virtual meeting with Appalachia Forward on downtown revitalization and also the Appalachia grant.

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

- \$3,500.00 from Big River Electric for repairs to well #10. Inv: 8/27/22. PO: 9/1/22
- \$5,871.46 from Kleem for paint for the streets. Inv: 8/30/22. PO: 9/1/22.
- \$22,715.00 from Burgess & Niple for Phase I of Oakwood Drive. Inv: 8/26/22. PO: 9/23/22
- \$6,600.00 from Rod Clary Excavating for storm sewer repair. Inv: 9/6/22. PO: 9/23/22

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

Ms. Clonch re-presented to the commission a liquor license transfer from Billy Joe & Joann Patterson DBA: Dock Inn to Wells Dock Inn Inc. This was presented at the last meeting and was tabled until the Police Chief could gather a history of police-related calls on another establishment the license requestee owns, Hogg Haven. Mr. Boyer provided the commission with a list of calls and complaints to the establishment for the year 2022. He recommended that we request a hearing. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to request a hearing, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion to request a hearing, all votes were yes.

A new liquor license permit was also presented by the Auditor to the commission for Hilltop Four DBA Colony. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve and not request a hearing, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Mr. Breech said these are his renters and we will not have any problems with them. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor reported that a month ago the City Manager presented some pictures of the house at 37 Chillicothe Road that had caught fire twice. It is an unsafe structure and we had talked about tearing it down. The City would have to front the cost of approximately \$5,500.00 for demolition and assess the charges to the property. The owner contacted Code Enforcement and said that she would not request a hearing and would agree to the amount being assessed to her property. The City Manager said that when the landbank money comes in we hope to take care of several properties in the City.

Mr. Jenkins commended the City Manager on the hiring of two individuals who will give us very good experience and have certifications in running our water and sewer system. Mr. John Westfall who has a class III wastewater, class I water, and class II distribution license. Mr. Skeeter Woodall who has a class III water, class II wastewater, and is taking his class III and has a distribution license.

He also said that after meeting with a gentleman at the OVRDC meeting concerning broadband, it was mentioned that Gallia County is the 3rd worst county in Ohio for accessible broadband. This is terrible for our education and our businesses. The estimated cost would be 67 million to install it throughout the whole county. We are working on trying to get it here and find a solution.

Dr. Thomas suggested we have a work session or special meeting to discuss the problem and issues brought to the Commission tonight concerning the drug epidemic. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea and we will set a date.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Resolution No. R2022-14 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 2023 AS HEREIN DESCRIBED.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote to place the resolution on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Resolution No. R2022-15 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT FUND (353) FOR OPWC OAKWOOD DRIVE LANDSLIDE REPAIR.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place this resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote to place the resolution on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Resolution No. R2022-16 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO THE MUNICIPAL BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS OHIO.** Dr. Thomas made a motion to place this resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote to place the resolution on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-31 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH USI INSURANCE SERVICES (PEP) FOR GENERAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY INSURANCE.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-32 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A BONUS OR A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE TO ALL PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, CERTAIN ELIGIBLE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES, AND ALL APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. In discussion, Mr. Jenkins asked if we were paying employees \$300 for a clothing allowance. The Auditor stated that it is actually a Christmas bonus but the Municipal Court wanted theirs labeled a clothing allowance. Mr. Jenkins stated it should read as a Christmas bonus if that is what it is. Mr. Fulks made a motion to amend the ordinance to read that it is a Christmas bonus, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to amend the ordinance Mr. Fulks, Dr. Thomas, and Mr. Gallagher voted yes, and Mr. Jenkins voted no. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading as amended, Mr. Fulks, Dr. Thomas, and Mr. Gallagher voted yes, and Mr. Jenkins voted no.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-33 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A BONUS TO GALLIPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT (GFD) FIREFIGHTERS.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-34 entitled **AN 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.** Dr. Thomas made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Mr. Jenkins recommended we amend the codified ordinances to allow the City Manager to determine when and where organizations could solicit from. We should have a general ordinance so this does not have to be presented to the commission every year. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

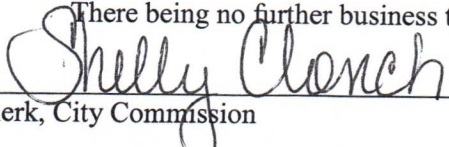
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-35 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH RIO FAMILY HEALTHCARE FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Dr. Thomas made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Mr. Jenkins also recommended on this ordinance that we do a general ordinance for the City Manager to enter into health contracts with local clinics. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

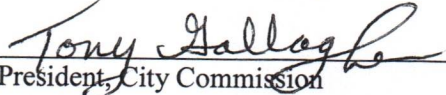
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-36 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GALLIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PAYMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THE CITY'S INDIGENT CITIZENS.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-37 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PLEASANT VALLEY HOSPITAL FOR PLEASANT VALLEY HEALTHCARE – JEANNE INGLES FNP-BC FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. The contract and ordinance read that the effective date is until either party wants to terminate the agreement with 60 days' notice. Mr. Jenkins recommended the agreement to read as the other healthcare contracts that are on a yearly basis. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2022-38 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023.** Mr. Fulks made a motion to place this ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the 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