

October 17, 2023

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 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.

Vice President Dr. Bill Thomas called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of prayer for the loss of Commission President Tony Gallagher and the serious illness of Mr. Fulks's mother.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President
Michael W. Brown, Member
Michael C. Fulks, Member
R. William "Bill" Jenkins, Member

Others attending were:

Dow W Saunders, City Manager
Shelly L. Clonch, City Auditor
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor
Chad Vaughn, River Cities News
Ronnie Lynch Jeff Boyer Ollie Paxton Tipple
Valerie Merry Keith Elliott Joy Elliott
Donna Bordon Arun Sharma Lester Plymale
Bill Mangus John Watson Hollis Myers
Rick Howell Marvin Ours Edward Lewis
Randy Breech Marla Swords Parsons David McCoy
Keith Jeffers Star Pullins Ann Craft
Michael Craft Marvin Pullins Lori Hall
Greg Hall Rob Rocchi Shari Rocchi
Roger B. Whitney Vilfer (zoom) Jonathan Elliott (zoom)

Dr. Thomas said that the order of business would be changed to appoint a president of the City Commission per the City Charter due to the death of Mr. Tony Gallagher. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to appoint Dr. Thomas as president and Mr. Fulks as vice president for the remainder of this term, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The new Commission President Dr. Thomas, requested work/study sessions for the Commissioners to be held Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week from 10 am to 4 pm. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to schedule the work sessions to swear in and bring up to date a newly appointed Commissioner and discuss our current position, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion that Resolution No. R2023-21 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM KIRK FRAZEE AS CITY COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS** be passed on the first reading due to the death of Mr. Tony Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon roll call to pass the resolution on the first reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Fulks had to leave the meeting for a family emergency.

The commission received the minutes of October 3, 2023, prior to this meeting. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the October 3rd minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Ms. Star Pullins. Ms. Pullins is representing the Citizens for Veterans Banners group that was recently created after she posted pictures on Facebook of other cities having hometown veterans' banners hung on their street poles. She remembers them being hung in Gallipolis but then they were gone. The banners used in the past belonged to the Gallia County Honor Guard and she did reach out to them to request to reuse the banners and they graciously said yes. She is here tonight to request that banners be hung up around the park five days prior to the following holidays: Vietnam Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, POW/MIA Day, and Veterans Day. Mr. Bill Mangus brought a sample of the banners they had but said they were actually too big being 22" x 36". He recommended a size of 18" x 22" and stated that these could be hung down Second Avenue and along the park on First Avenue which is a total of around 50 poles. The Honor Guard would bring the banners, and provide any hardware needed, and there would be no cost to the City. Ms. Pullins said in the past it was said that the Honor Guard could not hang them up themselves due to liability issues and asked if City workers could help put them up. Mr. Saunders replied that we could do our best to put them up being that it would take a day and a half to get them all up and having limited crews. He also wanted to make sure that it didn't interfere with Gallipolis in Lights putting up their display. Mr. Saunders will see what size the Gallipolis in Lights banners are so the Honor Guard will know what size can go on the pole. Mr. Brown made a motion for the City Manager to move forward on this project, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was also granted to Mr. Randy Breech. He passed out to the commission a copy of the petition that is circulating concerning the three-story Vertical Church construction and gave the City Auditor twenty-five pages of signatures. He also passed out what was sent out by Code Enforcement for the initial meeting on the Vertical Church project. This letter was not clear on the purpose and only came out the Friday before the Monday meeting. The main concern is there has been no transparency on what the building will be used for and also the taking away of parking for downtown visitors. He said that citizens and property owners around this area should have been made aware of this major structure being built. The building's appearance will not be in line with the buildings that surround it as it will be a total stucco building. This is a protected historic area and he would like to get this project stopped before any construction would be started. He recommended sitting down and having a work session to discuss the project with everyone before he takes this to the next step. Ms. Lori Hall spoke and said the building is being used as a church and not a recovery house as is what is being told to the public that is signing these petitions. Mr. Breech replied that it was not brought up in the meeting what it would be used for and the pastor was careful about what he said to him. Commissioner Brown spoke up and said that he felt that the aesthetic of this building was not fit for downtown Gallipolis. Mr. Saunders asked him how he would feel if it was all brick and Mr. Brown replied it may look better but he would have to see a print. Mr. Jenkins said that he was the only one who attended the first meeting and protested it because it adjoined his property. He stated that a lot of what is being said tonight is untrue and there is nothing the City Commission can do and Mr. Breech would have to go through the appropriate process that is in our ordinances.

Mr. Breech said his next concern is a structure on the property next to the Railroad Museum. This house has been looked at and checked by the Code Enforcement Officer, himself, and another engineer who suggested in his professional opinion, that it needs to be barricaded. If a breeze hits that building the wrong way, it will collapse on the brand-new roof of the Railroad Museum storage building. Mr. Breech wrote an inspection on the property on November 8, 2022, and has a copy of where the property owner was given fifteen days to fix the house or the City would have it torn down and charge the owner. The City Manager said the last he knew about the structure was that the Health Department determined that it was unfit for human occupancy. The City has been hopeful that an arrangement could be worked out between the property owner and the Railroad Museum. It was determined that the best thing to do would be to take the property owner back to court. Dr. Thomas mentioned that he wanted full disclosure that he is on the museum's board and will take that into consideration when discussing the issue.

The City Manager asked if we could go back and in addition to Mr. Gallagher, have a moment of silence to remember Mr. Lloyd Danner, a former City Commissioner, and Mr. Roger Hood, a 40-year merchant in downtown Gallipolis, who both passed away recently.

Mr. Saunders reported on the following:

- The leaf machine will be delivered this week which we are purchasing in part with a BWC grant. The grant covers \$40,000 of the \$59,000 cost.
- We applied for the OPWC paving grant that we have also applied for in previous years. The formula for the grant is more set up for a County advantage so we more than likely don't have a chance to get funded until the small cities level. This would be a match of 26% and the remainder would be a 50% loan and 50% grant.
- IBI has been here this week working on the water line design engineering and reviewing the plans for the Blue Fountain lift station.
- Unfortunately, we had a leak on State Route 7 at GKN and had to dig up the road. The valve to GKN was leaking and when turning it off it broke, and we had to replace it. We need to look into GKN placing a shut-off valve on their side of the water line.

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

- \$6,309.83 from Annual Law Enforcement Manuals for police manuals. Inv: 7/15/23. PO: 10/5/23.
- \$27,877.88 from Rumpke for September refuse collection. Inv: 9/19/23. PO: 10/5/23.
- \$19,861.46 from Advanced Services of Gallipolis for HVAC system. Inv: 6/14/23. PO: 10/4/23.

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

Ms. Clonch presented the September 2023 financial statement for approval that she gave to the commission at the last meeting. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the September financial statement, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The Auditor stated that she has 2024 budget request sheets ready to give to department supervisors. She said we need to look at salaries, capital items, and projects for next year.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Resolution No. R2023-20 entitled **A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF GALLIA COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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 second reading Ordinance No. O2023-29 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION DIVISION OF PAROLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Ordinance No. O2023-30 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTED SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL HEALTH CLINICS FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Ordinance No. O2023-31 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES SECTION OF THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE (GASB-34 LOOK-ALIKE STATEMENTS) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

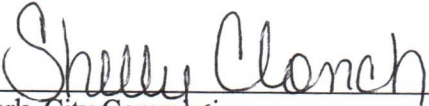
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2023-33 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE PERMITS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLICIT FROM THE OCCUPANT OF A VEHICLE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 3713.06 (B)(2) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS OHIO.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. The City Manager said this would allow him to authorize any solicitations on a case-by-case 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. O2023-34 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR HOSPITALIZATION, MEDICAL, MAJOR MEDICAL, AND DRUG INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS OHIO.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. The City Auditor said this was only a 2.40% increase from last year. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

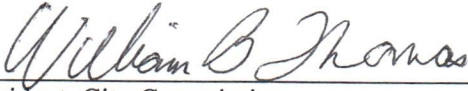
There was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2023-35 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A CHRISTMAS BONUS TO ALL PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, CERTAIN ELIGIBLE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ALL APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Brown made a motion to place the 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 was presented and read to the Commission for a first reading Ordinance No. O2023-36 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A BONUS TO GALLIPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT (GFD) FIREFIGHTERS.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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