

November 21, 2023

The Gallipolis City Commission met in special session on Tuesday, November 21, 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.

President Dr. Bill Thomas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence to open the meeting.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

William "Bill" Thomas, President
Michael C. Fulks, Vice-President
Michael W. Brown, Member
William "Kirk" Frazee, 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 (zoom)
Ronnie Lynch Jeff Boyer Debbie Saunders
Keith Elliott Joy Elliott Debbie Rhodes
Amber Gillenwater Natalie Wilcoxon Robbie Jenkins
John VanMeter Randy Christian Whitney Vilfer (zoom)

The commission received the minutes of November 7, 2023, prior to this meeting. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the November 7th minutes, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote on the motion to approve the minutes, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Ms. Debbie Saunders and Mr. Robbie Jenkins of the Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library. They displayed a wonderful exhibit that showcased all of the services that the library offers to the citizens making it a thriving community center. Ms. Saunders explained some of these free services that can be checked out on your library card including Wi-Fi to go as they have 500 boxes in circulation with 180 people on the waitlist. They also offer booking a bike to ride on the hike and bike trail, fit and fun gym passes, pickleball classes, summer reading programs for the youth along with other activities, yoga classes, and you can check out a guitar along with lessons. They have had several major exhibits that have brought in thousands of people including the Bodies Revealed, Space Smithsonian, Savage Ancient Seas, and coming fall of 2024 the Animals Inside Out exhibit. Some of the visitors are from out of state which in turn helps to boost our economy here in Gallia County. The library also teams up with our local history museums and schools to hold events. Bossard Library was chosen as one of eight of the 251 public libraries in the State of Ohio to be showcased at the Library Legislative Day held at the Statehouse Rotunda in 2023. After the overview of the services that they provide to the community, Ms. Saunders stated that the reason they were there today was to request the commission's consideration to vacate a small portion of Spruce Street that would provide green space as they construct a new addition and it will safely connect all of the library's campus. A diagram was provided to each commissioner that showed their vision for the new campus and a map of the area they wish to vacate. This will not affect the businesses that are on Spruce Street as they are only asking for a small part of the street. Mr. Robbie Jenkins spoke and said the need for library services has evolved and is changing at a faster pace than ever and they are adapting to that. This is not a plan for a land grab but an opportunity to advance the library. The library remediated the entire lot parallel on the opposite side of Spruce Street where Willis Tire used to be to expand for future services, and they need the City's support for their continued growth. Their new plan also includes a new basketball court, a pickleball court, and a two-story building where

many different activities and classes can take place. The library had a traffic study completed which resulted in only five to six cars per hour coming down Spruce Street.

Mr. Fulks said that he had been to their exhibits and for a small town they are above and beyond exceptional. The City Manager asked if they would be keeping the parking lot on Second Avenue and Ms. Saunders said they would. Mr. Frazee stated that we are blessed to have the library in our community and it shows a lot of the heritage in our area. Dr. Thomas asked for a timeline for the project. Ms. Saunders said that if they had the support of the Commission to vacate that portion of the street, the planning, architectural work, and bidding would more than likely take a year with another year or two for construction. The Commission decided to hold a study session with representatives from the library to discuss the project more in-depth and look at easements and right of way.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- We received a thank you note from Mr. Bob Hood for the kind words, attendance, and lantern sent from the City upon the passing of his father, Mr. Roger Hood.
- Gallipolis in Lights opening night is tomorrow with the lighting at 7 p.m. and we are anticipating a very large crowd.
- Brett and he met with Ann Bonner with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and discussed the City applying for a small piece of a 7-million-dollar statewide grant. Ms. Bonner recommended we apply for \$20,000 for planting, re-establish our Tree City USA, and host an Arbor Day. We also need to get our Shade Tree Board active or appoint a tree commissioner.
- He received word that there are new grant funds out (5 million) that we could apply for to go towards our waterline replacement project. This would leave us with a 3-million-dollar loan with 50% principal forgiveness and the possibility of the City only having to repay a 1.3 million dollar loan for an 8-million dollar project.
- Cole Massie has been great in assisting with the Appalachia grant. We have been advocating for streetscape lighting, street work, and riverfront improvements. Our application will go within Lawrence County Community Action's application and include multiple counties. He is also advocating for local historical groups as they become eligible.
- He included in the packets a copy of City Boards and members. This list needs updating and appointments need to be made. We may look at posting it on our website to see if there is any interest to serve.
- He recommends that the Commission look at passing a more simplified tree ordinance and also update the zoning code concerning green spaces.
- There is a Brightening Ohio grant that we may apply for that could be a match for the streetscape grant.
- He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

- \$10,767.00 from Bob's Market for Gallipolis in Lights expenses. Inv: 10/17/23. PO: 11/2/23.
- \$12,946.00 from Bob's Market for Gallipolis in Lights expenses. Inv: 10/17/23. PO: 11/2/23.
- \$29,182.15 from Rumpke for refuse pickup. Inv: 10/17/23. PO: 11/2/23.
- \$6,510.85 from American Legal Publishing for updating the codified ordinances. Inv: 11/9/23. PO: 11/15/23
- \$5,819.62 from the Treasurer State of Ohio for returning unspent court grant funds. Inv: 10/18/23. PO: 11/14/23
- \$23,073.49 from the Treasurer State of Ohio for returning unspent court grant funds. Inv: 10/18/23. PO: 11/14/23

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

Mr. Brown inquired about the orange fence that was put up on First Avenue on the bank. The City Manager said that is just for tomorrow for the Gallipolis in Lights firework display to ensure safety.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Resolution No. R2023-22 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT FUND (354) FOR WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Frazee. Upon roll call to adopt the resolution on the second reading, all votes were yes.

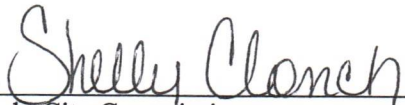
There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Ordinance No. O2023-38 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Ordinance No. O2023-40 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O2023-09, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O2023-27, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS**. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. 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. O2023-42 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES**. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Fulks. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Saunders complimented the Fire Department on getting the fire levy passed.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission