

December 5, 2023

The Gallipolis City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 5, 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
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
Ronnie Lynch Jeff Boyer John VanMeter
Keith Elliott Randy Breech

The commission received the minutes of November 21, 2023, prior to this meeting. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the November 21st 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 Mr. John VanMeter who wanted to introduce himself as he is seeking the republican nomination for the office of County Treasurer. He has lived in Gallia County most of his life and has been employed at Kyger Creek Power Plant for the last 35 years, and part of his responsibility is overseeing the operations and maintenance multi-million-dollar budget. He also is the treasurer of the Kyger Creek Credit Union and his church.

Mr. Randy Breech requested to speak and stated that he and fellow engineers observed over the weekend that the house by the Train Museum is back in collapse mode and one side is bulging. He stopped in to talk with the Code Enforcement Officer but he was not in the office. He wants to make sure this gets attention as he was told some action would be taken. There has not even been caution tape put around the property. The City Manager stated that a letter has been given to the property owner and they have 30 days to respond which is December 15th. Mr. Breech stated that it is an imminent danger that could cause the City a lawsuit and asked why the City is tinkering on doing anything. Mr. Frazee stated that they are not turning a blind eye and the City is taking the proper steps. Mr. Saunders said that no engineer had given him a certificate that the structure was in imminent danger of falling. He said there were so many people wearing so many different hats on this property that he didn't know if the City needed someone to take a look at it or not. Mr. Saunders will have Code Enforcement put up yellow caution tape tomorrow around the property.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- He attended the annual fall meeting of SOPEC which is the City's electricity aggregation. SOPEC continues to grow adding cities such as Cleveland, Dayton, and Upper Arlington. He was happy to see they have added staffing and are applying for federal grants for EV charging stations and community grants. They also are looking at solar grants specifically for water treatment facilities and getting into natural gas aggregation.
- We are working with Ohio Rural Water on our GIS mapping program. They can blend the work product that they have already done with the work that RCAP completed at a much cheaper cost.

- We received the bridge inspection for the Burkhart Lane culvert. He is going to ask the County Engineer for recommendations and also have our general engineering firm IBI take a look at it. At this point, it looks like it is past any kind of remedies. There was discussion about whether this culvert was the City's or the County's responsibility.
- Has been working with Code Enforcement on responding to ODNR on floodplain management issues.
- The Appalachia grant has been signed and will be submitted this week and includes streetscape and riverfront improvements. Recreation facilities are also eligible and we are going to see if we can submit for pickleball at Haskins Park and resurfacing the basketball court.
- Repair and maintenance have been completed on lift stations with three new control panels being installed at Allen Drive, Chillicothe Road, and Irvin's Glass. This will help with backflow issues.
- He and John Westfall had a call with Cody of CITCO Water to discuss getting clarification if we can use the meter grant for SR2's that are made in the United States. We would like to use the Iperls but they are not made here.
- He is still working on possibly applying for the Brightening Ohio grant for lighting in the downtown and Haskins Park.
- IBI is continuing to work on the bid specifications and advertise for the Blue Fountain lift station upgrade.

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

- \$4,250.05 from TriStateRacer for Gallipolis in Lights 5K race. Inv: 5/15/23. PO: 7/26/23.
- \$4,000.00 from Shari Rocchi for Gallipolis in Lights aerial display. Inv: 11/6/23. PO: 11/28/23.
- \$3,600.00 from Lei Shawn Queen for buying back cemetery lots. Inv: 11/13/23. PO: 11/28/23.

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

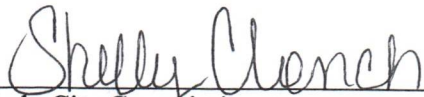
Ms. Clonch also presented the November financial statement for approval. Mr. Fulks made a motion to approve the November financial statement, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The Auditor stated that she has been working on the 2024 budget with only a few departments left to turn in their requests. She and Mr. Saunders will be looking at the salary and benefits portion to present to the commission. There is an appropriation ordinance on the agenda tonight to appropriate more funds for Gallipolis in Lights to cover their bills. Since all five commissioners are not present to vote on it as an emergency, it needs to not be presented tonight, and a meeting rescheduled when all commissioners can be present to vote. The City Manager stated that there is also a resolution on the agenda tonight to not be presented for a SOPEC grant that needs to be carried over to another meeting because he needs all five votes for passage.

Mr. Fulks said that the downtown area looks great with Gallipolis in Lights. The City Manager commended City crews for doing extra work and upkeep of the area.

There was presented and read to the Commission for a second reading Ordinance No. O2023-42 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES**. Mr. Fulks made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Frazee. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second 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