

July 2, 2024

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Gallipolis Municipal Building, 333 Third Avenue, having complied with Section 9 of the City Charter.

City Commission President Mr. Michael Fulks called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and took a moment to remember those this 4th of July who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in a free nation.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

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

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager		
Shelly L. Clonch, City Auditor		
Chad Vaughn, River Cities News (zoom)		
Ronnie Lynch	Keith Elliott	Joy Elliott
Jeff Boyer	Debbie Saunders	Steven Moore
Robbie Jenkins	Marvin Ours	Vera Snedaker
Jeff Snedaker	Nicolaus Landry	Natalie Wilcoxon
Amber Gillenwater	Jamie Cain	Ed Johnson
Jeremy Spencer	Jonathan Elliott	Randy Breech
Randy Christian	Ruby Taylor	

The commission received the minutes of June 18, 2024, prior to this meeting. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the June 18th minutes, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. 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 with the Bossard Memorial Library. Ms. Saunders stated the library put a petition before the commission and she was here tonight to ask if the City had considered their request to vacate part of Spruce Street as previously presented to them last year on November 23rd. She provided each commissioner with a picture of the plans and improvements they intend to make. This will provide a better and safer library, additional parking, and the possibility for future expansion. The City Manager asked about the City's utility lines that run through there. Ms. Saunders said the library would have a utility survey done if the City approves vacating part of the street as they don't want to spend taxpayer's dollars if their request is not approved by the Commission. The City Solicitor stated that if the commission does approve the request, the ORC states the City would have a permanent utility easement. Mr. Jenkins spoke on behalf of Dr. Thomas, who couldn't be at the meeting tonight and is part of the Railroad museum, recommending the library place something there in remembrance of the historic railroad tracks that once started on Spruce Street. Ms. Saunders stated that Dr. Thomas had spoken to her about that. Mr. Fulks asked Ms. Saunders if they had a timeline and she replied no but they have been planning for a while and want to continue with advancements for the community which extends further than Gallia County as they bring in lots of visitors. It was asked how vacating part of the street would affect businesses and residents on Spruce and Ms. Saunders stated that it would only be where the library property lines are and you can still have access from Second Avenue. They completed an inhouse traffic count of vehicles traveling from First to Second on Spruce Street which averaged 5.29 vehicles per hour. Mr. Jamie Cain of Graham's Towing asked how his deliveries on an 18-wheeler truck would turn around on the portion of the street where their business is located. Ms. Saunders replied that she didn't have an answer to that question. Mr. Fulks said that a decision will not be made tonight and anyone with objections can submit them to the City Manager. He stated that we probably have one of the best libraries in Ohio but we need to look into it more before a decision is made.

Next, Mr. Marvin Ours said that there was a water leak on Grape Street that caused so much pressure that it blew his commode lid off. He said normally they get a call from the City about a boil advisory. The City Manager said a water boil advisory is issued if the pressure is low and that is when a phone call goes out to the residents in the area.

Also granted the privilege of the floor was Dr. Nicolaus Landry who was present tonight to request the commission to approve waiving water and sewer fees for his residential treatment center buildings on Jackson Pike. He said he was required to install a sprinkler system since it was a residential center and needed a water line installed. The water department quoted him a \$50,000 sewer fee for that 2" line that he only needed water for. Mr. Landry said Snouffers gave him options to install it differently with water tanks and pumps for half that price. He said he had Snouffers put the system in and is now having to put in water and sewer taps which is going to unexpectedly cost him \$16,000 with the sewer capacity fee plus the cost of installation. Mr. Landry asked if it was necessary to make him pay these fees with it being a recovery center with a high success rate and having large debt on the facility. Mr. Jenkins stated that we follow what our ordinances say and fees have to be paid. Mr. Randy Breech spoke up and said that the City should not consider Dr. Landry's request because his center generates crime, is not safe, is harming our area, and is not properly run. Dr. Landry responded that they have had very few calls to law enforcement, have had no crime at the facility, and have been inspected by the State on several occasions. Mr. Fulks had to interrupt and let Mr. Breech know that his concerns had been noted. Mr. Jeff Snedaker wanted to add that he has property on Jackson Pike and had to hook into the City sewer which cost him \$3,000 because everybody has to pay it.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The past couple of weeks maintenance employees have been busy preparing for the River Recreation Festival working at the City Park and Public Use Area. They have had some trip hazards with trees along the streetscape and are getting those taken care of.
- We received a notice of award through the State Capital Budget for a pickleball court/basketball court restoration in the amount of \$100,000 and a splash pad in the amount of \$100,000. The City's share would be around \$80,000 for both projects which we hope to receive in donations and grants.
- The waterline replacement project is approved for \$7,558,700 with \$3,779,350 in loan forgiveness and the remainder at a 0% interest loan for up to 40 years. Engineering work is currently being done by Arcadis and we are deciding which lines to move forward with.
- The Belmont Drive sewer project bid came in at \$106,000 and there is an ordinance on the agenda tonight to award the bid to Southern Ohio Trenching.
- There is a loan agreement ordinance on the agenda tonight for Pfas removal at the Water Treatment Plant. This loan is 100% loan forgiveness and we hope to have the project completed by December.
- We will be working to install the new frisbee golf at Haskins Park and have it done by the first of August.
- First Friday will be this coming Friday, July 5th, and is expecting over 100 vendors.

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

- \$9,790.00 from Citco Water for Holzer water meter. Inv: 11/3/23. PO: 6/27/24.


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

Ms. Ruby Taylor, who arrived at the meeting after the privilege of the floor, requested to speak. She said that it is about time we recognize the Police Department who protect and defend us and are only recognized when one is fallen or a heroic act. She recommended we honor them with a plaque or sculpture as they have helped her all her life. Mr. Fulks said we are very fortunate to have our Police Department and appreciated Ms. Taylor's support very much.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading Resolution No. R2024-06 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO AN OHIO EPA WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS FOR PLANNING OF THE PFAS GENERAL PLAN PROJECT, AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR LOAN REFINANCING.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading Ordinance No. O2024-19 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR THE BELMONT DRIVE SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.** 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 being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission