

January 21, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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 a moment of silence.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

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

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager
Shelly Clonch, City Auditor
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor
Ronnie Lynch Jeff Boyer Joy Elliott
Dennis Kirby Randy Breech Keith Elliott

The commission received the January 7, 2025 minutes before this meeting. Ms. Clonch stated that she corrected a typo in the minutes on page two during her report, which should have read the 2025 appropriations needed to be on the first reading at the February 18th meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the January 7th minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Mr. Dennis Kirby who lives at 51 Lincoln Avenue. He hadn't had water since Friday due to a water leak that got fixed today. There is also a sewer main that has a bleed off and running on his property for the last three years. The gentleman who built the storage units near him filled that property in and used railroad ties as pillars when there should have been a metal or concrete wall. This is causing the water to run onto his property. Mr. Kirby said that if the city cleaned that ditch line out, he wouldn't have no water on his property. For the sewer, he said it needs to be dug out at the manhole and cleaned out with a sleeve put on. He said that before former manager Mr. Saunders passed away, he was going to have the maintenance crew come and clean that ditch out.

Mr. Kirby also stated that during the recent fire on Eastern Avenue, he was directing and rerouting traffic to Mill Creek as a good citizen and no one would stop to help. He said that firemen and policemen just drove by him and he called 911 a few times and no one answered the phone. Mr. Fulks told Mr. Kirby that he was sure that the Fire and Police Chief would look into the situation and address it and told him to get with the City Manager on his water and sewer problems. Mr. Kirby said that when he had the water leak, maintenance came and looked at it and said that it wasn't leaking badly. He said that he just wanted help. Mr. Westfall took Mr. Kirby's phone number and will be in contact with him.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The last couple of weeks, maintenance has been busy with salting roads from the recent snow and water leaks. They are doing the best they can do to keep up.
- The general plan for the PFAS design should be completed by the end of the month.
- The water line project will go to bid on February 4th with the bid opening on February 27th. Financing for this project is through grants and a 0% interest loan that they need to discuss on the length and terms.
- He has been meeting with supervisors and the Auditor to discuss each department's 2025 budget requests.

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

- \$3,400.00 from Bridgeport for GIL lift rental. Inv: 1/3/25. PO: 1/10/25.
- \$38,211.00 from Public Entities Pool for property/liability insurance. Inv: 9/6/24. PO: 1/2/25.
- \$3,000.00 from Ohio History Connection for a court grant refund. Inv: 12/30/24. PO: 1/2/25.
- \$86,422.78 from Jefferson Health Plan for health insurance. Inv: 12/26/24. PO: 1/2/25.
- \$30,352.29 from Rumpke for refuse pickup. Inv: 12/17/24. PO: 1/2/25.
- \$4,381.90 from TRZ Business Services for the notify now alert system. Inv: 1/2/25. PO: 1/16/25.

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

Ms. Clonch stated that after speaking with the Board of Elections, the primary election date will be May 6, 2025. Petitions for the office of City Commissioner can be picked up in her office, and candidates can circulate for signatures starting January 26th. Petitions are due to the Board of Elections by the close of day on February 20, 2025.

The Auditor asked the Commission what day would be best for the next budget work session. After some discussion, it was decided that they would meet next Tuesday, January 28th, at 3:00 p.m.

The City Solicitor informed the Commission that AT&T had filed an action for a tariff revision that would require municipalities to pay for the cost of moving AT&T's lines in a right of way. The Ohio Municipal League filed to oppose the bill and AT&T has withdrawn their request. If AT&T does refile, the City may have to prepare a resolution to be included in any lawsuit that OML would file against AT&T.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading Resolution No. R2025-01 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 CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR LOAN FINANCING.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote to place the resolution on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading Ordinance No. O2025-01 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1501 "FIRE CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS OHIO.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to amend the ordinance as follows on page 2, section 1520.03 Excessive False alarms:

*line one change 15 false alarms to 10 false alarms

*line three change 15 false alarms to 10 false alarms

*line four change the 16th-20th false alarm to 11-15th alarm

*line five change the 21st false alarm to the 16th false alarm and change the administrative fee of \$200.00 to an administrative fee of \$400.00.

Dr. Thomas seconded the motion to amend the ordinance. Chief Elliott stated that in 2024 the department had 168 false alarm calls, with one business being 55 of those calls, costing the City \$20,492 in reimbursement costs to the firemen. Upon roll call to amend the ordinance, all votes were yes. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the amended ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt the amended ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading Ordinance No. O2025-02 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR THE HASKINS PARK PICKLEBALL COURT PROJECT**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Mr. Johnson said that he understood that the engineer had some concerns with the bids and Mr. Fulks said the lowest bidder also submitted incorrect bonding. Mr. Westfall stated that the engineer said we need to pull back and reassess this project and be more specific in our specifications. There was the issue of acrylic paint versus the acrylic that should be used and also concrete versus asphalt. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were no.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading Ordinance No. O2025-03 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATIONS DURING A SNOW EMERGENCY**. Mr. Johnson 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 as a first reading Ordinance No. O2025-04 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH PERRY AND ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE THE CASH BASIS FINANCIAL STATEMENT (GASB-35 LOOK-ALIKE STATEMENTS) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins asked if the state is not doing it anymore and making us pay someone. Ms. Clonch said that Perry & Associates had prepared our statements in the past until the State offered to do it for a cheaper price. The State currently does not have the staff to prepare the GASB statements anymore and they are still working on our 2022/2023 audit. 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