

March 18, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, March 18, 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 Vice-President Dr. William "Bill" Thomas called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember those with troubles and ones who have gone ahead.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President
Michael W. Brown, Member
W. Matthew Johnson, Member
(Michael C. Fulks, President, arrived during the privilege of the floor)

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager
Shelly Clonch, City Auditor
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor
Ronnie Lynch Larry Taylor Keith Elliott Mitch Altier
Joy Elliott Mike Carter Betty Jo Carter Matt Clapp

The commission received the March 4, 2025 minutes before this meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the March 4th minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Mr. Larry Taylor with Trebel Energy to discuss the City's gas aggregation renewal at the end of June. A lot is going on in the energy market right now and what they would like to do is propose a guaranteed 2% off of Columbia Gas rates. The benefit of having an active program is that when the market does drop, they can lock residents in at a rate saving them more than 2%. There is too much risk right now to shop for a fixed rate. Mr. Taylor left an agreement and letter of authorization for the Commission to review and prepare legislation to be passed.

Mr. Fulks, Commission President, arrived during Mr. Taylor's presentation and took over presiding over the meeting.

Dr. Thomas asked Mr. Randy Breech for updates on the Freight Train Station Museum. Mr. Breech stated that with the assistance of the land bank, the house by the museum that was in danger of falling has been demolished and the ground has been seeded. They will soon be putting in a sidewalk connecting the barn to the train depot. As soon as the grant awarded in 2022 gets started, they will bring in passenger cars for restoration. They have received many donations towards their required 5% of the project cost which will be deposited to the City as the base agency. Mr. Breech will be overseeing the project, which requires him to have 30 hours of training.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Attended an informal meeting with Allard on the riverfront project. They have no set plans yet but should be ready to start on the PUA right after the 4th of July.
- Had a meeting today with Mitch of Arcadis on the waterline project that he will go over shortly.
- The City has received two 100% grants from the Ohio EPA. One is for an emergency generator on Sanders Hill for \$32,121 and the other is for well abandonment for \$9,030. This water well has been idle and ready to close. The paperwork for both grants has been signed and submitted.
- Ohio Netting and Fence has signed its contract and is ready to begin the concrete work on the pickleball court.

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

- \$3,600.00 from Big River Electric for well motor repair. Inv: 1/31/25. PO: 2/5/25.
- \$30,182.13 from Rumpke for trash collection. Inv: 2/14/25. PO: 3/6/25
- \$38,212.00 from PEP for liability/property insurance. Inv: 9/6/24. PO: 3/7/25.

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

The February 2025 financial statement was distributed at the last meeting and Ms. Clonch asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the February financial statement, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Clonch stated that she received a liquor license stock ownership change for Go-Mart Inc. She asked if the commission wanted to request a hearing. Mr. Johnson made a motion not to request a hearing, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading Ordinance No. O2025-13 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN DOCUMENTATION FOR PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY AT 57, 60, 62, AND 88 CHILlicothe Rd, Gallipolis, OH 45631**. Mr. Johnson 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 as a first reading Ordinance No. O2025-15 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 712 "MOBILE FOOD VENDING" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Mr. Brown asked what will be the charge for a vendor to set up for a day and Mr. Westfall said \$75.00. Upon voice vote to place the ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

Mr. Mitch Altier and Mr. Matt Clapp with Arcadis presented bid options to the Commission from the recent bid opening for the water line replacement project. The low bidder for the base bid was C. J. Hughes at \$6,260,200 to replace lines in areas selected by the water and sewer maintenance department in their most troubled areas. The bidder also included alternate bids as follows:

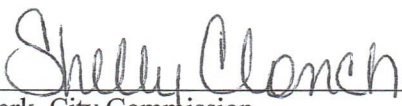
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Base	\$6,260,200.00	\$6,260,200.00	\$6,260,200.00	\$6,260,200.00	\$6,260,200.00
Upper River Rd	\$560,016.00			\$560,016.00	\$560,016.00
State Street					\$1,089,702.00
St Rt 141 Lines				\$1,072,329.00	\$1,072,329.00
St Rt 141 Booster	\$440,930.00	\$440,930.00		\$440,930.00	\$440,930.00
Contingency	\$726,114.60	\$670,113.00	\$626,020.00	\$833,347.50	\$942,317.70
Engineering	\$1,387,749.00	\$1,357,749.00	\$1,337,749.00	\$1,422,749.00	\$1,457,749.00
EPA Fees	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$9,395,009.60	\$8,748,992.00	\$8,243,969.00	\$10,609,571.50	\$11,843,243.70
<i>Annual Debt Pay after grants applied *30 year term</i>	<i>\$170,410.79</i>	<i>\$148,586.16</i>	<i>\$131,524.80</i>	<i>\$211,442.74</i>	<i>\$253,120.30</i>

The booster station on State Route 141 is on its last leg and would leave a lot of residents without water if it went down because it feeds a large part of the system. When there is a water leak on Upper River Road, it causes water outages and boil advisories to businesses. This is phase I of the total project and they are in the process of applying for phase II. The whole waterline replacement project will be done in three phases to maximize the amount of grant funds received.

Ms. Clonch and Mr. Westfall discussed the options and were leaning more towards option 2 with the possibility of option 1. Mr. Altier said they needed to know tonight which option the City would like to move forward with to start the funding process. Mr. Johnson said that he was leaning more towards option 1 because of our businesses and the payment is not that much more than option 2. Mr. Fulks asked if we could afford option 1 and Ms. Clonch said yes, but in the meantime we need to do a water rate study and make sure we are where we should be. Mr. Johnson said that doing more softens the blow of a rate increase or a rate study because this shows in good faith that we are trying to prevent the problems from the past and give our customers a more reliable utility.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to proceed with Option 1, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission