

May 20, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, May 20, 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
Michael W. Brown, Member
R. William "Bill" Jenkins, Member
W. Matthew Johnson, Member

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager			
Shelly Clonch, City Auditor			
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor			
Chad Vaughn, River Cities News			
Ronnie Lynch	Justin Rice	Keith Elliott	Joy Elliott
Mike Carter	Betty Jo Carter	Marvin Ours	Troy Miller
Randy Breech	Lester Plymale		

The commission received the minutes from May 6th before this meeting. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the May 6th minutes, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to the following:

Mr. Marvin Ours – Mr. Ours asked for the latest information on the gas and electric aggregation for City residents. Mr. Westfall said that Trebel Energy has offered a rate of 2% lower than Columbia Gas rates and will continue to monitor the market. He has not heard anything about the electric yet, but will get back with him as soon as he does. Mr. Jenkins stated that as far as he knew, the supplier had the lowest rate of electricity.

Mr. Troy Miller – Mr. Miller said he attended tonight to discuss the ARPA project at the riverfront. He lives on First Avenue and sees a lot of traffic that goes fast. When he saw the design drawings for the project, he wanted to propose to the Commission to do a speed table at intersections of the park, which is an elevated walkway, to encourage vehicles to slow down. Mr. Miller passed out example designs and descriptions of the speed tables to the Commission. He also gave some recommendations on how to make First Avenue more walkable. The Commission thanked him for the information.

Mr. Randy Breech – Mr. Breech said he is being contacted by entities purchasing properties in and around Gallipolis. He said that he never hears about the Commission discussing moving ahead on infrastructure with the new plants coming in. He is also being asked about the availability of water and sewer. Mr. Breech stated that the Commission meeting times are inconvenient, are short, and that nothing is being discussed. The City Manager stated that we are currently doing a 9 million dollar water line replacement project, so no one can say that nothing is being done. Mr. Jenkins said we have been talking about this water line project for three years, and in open meetings. Mr. Fulks stated that they have been discussing economic development and ways to attract businesses here in the CIC meetings that he attends. Mr. Breech also mentioned that the City doesn't have the right people in place for a Planning Commission. Mr. Fulks stated they are looking into the training classes that Mr. Breech suggested for the planning board.

Ms. Betty Jo Carter – Ms. Carter asked if the City ever thought about restoring the City Park Commission, as they have lost 5 trees this year. Mr. Jenkins stated that we have no money in the general fund for these things, and that is why we need a tax levy passed.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- City crews have been busy mowing at the parks and cemeteries and trying to keep up with the grass the best they can. They have also been cleaning at the pool and getting it ready to open.
- The Gallipolis in Lights 5k run and a fishing tournament were held this past weekend at the City Park and public use area, and both went very well.
- Flower baskets are currently being hung. Thanks to Gallipolis in Bloom for their support and the City Maintenance Crews, and Bob's Market for getting the baskets hung.
- The celebration of Lafayette's visit to Gallipolis will be held on Thursday at noon, and they are expecting a great turnout.
- Reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade on Monday.

Commissioner Jenkins asked if the large boat dock could be put back in for the Memorial Day and Fourth of July holidays or until work on the riverfront project starts. The City Manager said he will check with the contractor and get back with him.

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

- \$4,961.05 from Ohio Valley Bank for the parking lot bond. Inv: 4/22/25. PO: 5/5/25.
- \$14,561.39 from Ohio Valley Bank for the street improvement bond. Inv: 4/22/25. PO: 5/5/25.
- \$19,407.79 from Ohio Valley Bank for the fire equipment bond. Inv: 4/22/25. PO: 5/5/25.
- \$30,224.67 from Rumpke for trash collection. Inv: 4/17/25. PO: 5/5/25.

Ms. Clonch stated that the payment for the parking lot is the final payment. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the payments, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Dr. Thomas let everyone know the Lafayette celebration schedule, with the reenactment being after 11:30 a.m. and the festivities starting at 2:00 p.m. The Governor and his wife are supposed to be here for this event.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading Resolution No. R2025-02 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPROVING ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES COVERED BY SECTION 30 AND 31 OF THE GALLIPOLIS CHARTER**. Dr. Thomas made a motion to adopt the resolution on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon roll call to adopt the resolution on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading Resolution No. R2025-03 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 31(A) OF THE GALLIPOLIS CITY CHARTER**. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the resolution on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt the resolution on the second reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading Ordinance No. O2025-20 entitled **AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE GALLIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 04, 2025, THE ISSUE OF A .5% LEVY ON INCOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICE, STREETS, AND CEMETERY DEPARTMENTS OPERATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to amend the ordinance for streets to come before the police on the ballot language, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to amend the ordinance, all votes were yes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the amended ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote to place the amended ordinance on the first reading, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Jenkins, and Mr. Fulks voted yes, Mr. Brown voted no.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission