

June 17, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, June 17, 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 to remember those affected by the recent flooding.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Michael C. Fulks, President
William "Bill" Thomas, Vice-President
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	Randy Breech	Steve Evans
Bryna Butler	Lorna Hart	Meagan Burgess	Diana Love
Brian Young	Michael Cooper		

The commission received the minutes from June 3rd before this meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the June 3rd minutes, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote, all votes were yes.

Mr. Fulks read and presented a proclamation recognizing Bryna Butler and Lorna Hart for their role as co-chairs of the committee for the Bicentennial Celebration of General Lafayette's visit to Gallipolis. Dr. Thomas expressed how wonderful the event turned out, even with some bumps in the road, and these ladies persevered and worked hard. He and Mr. Steve Evans were also on the committee and saw the work that they put into this. Ms. Hart said that she will accept this recognition on behalf of the entire committee, who wanted to see Gallipolis shine. Ms. Butler said they were very pleased when the National Executive Director of the American Friends of Lafayette told them Gallipolis was in the top five celebrations that they have been to so far across the nation. Mr. Steve Evans expressed to Ms. Butler and Ms. Hart that they really made this happen and that Governor DeWine, who was in attendance, said it was one of his best days while being in office.

Mr. Brian Young, who is the Director of Government Affairs for Charter Communications, also known as Spectrum, had requested the privilege of the floor. His construction manager will be a few minutes late to the meeting, and he has requested to do their presentation when he arrives.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Chamber has announced that there will be fireworks on the 4th, and he thanked local businesses who donated to make this happen.
- The Ohio EPA has approved the City for another grant for PFAS detail design. It is a 100% grant in the amount of \$448,600.
- Whitney has continued to work on the cemetery mapping program, and Mound Hill is now available for the public to view. She is currently in the process of taking and adding pictures of headstones to the application. There is a link on the City's website to access the program. After the total completion of Mound Hill Cemetery, the Pine Street Cemetery will be added with a separate link.
- He has had several complaints about kids racing, squealing tires, and leaving trash at the riverfront, and he has asked the Police Chief to have patrolmen frequently patrol that area. Our trash crew has

been picking up empty alcohol cans, and he wants to remind the public that the riverfront is an alcohol free area.

- The Pool is open and running well. There has been good attendance, and it looks to be a good season. It is open for morning water walkers, regular swim, evening water walkers, and pool parties.

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

- \$7,460.00 from Chargepoint Inc. for electric charging stations software and hardware maintenance. Inv: 4/17/25. PO: 6/4/25.
- \$13,175.00 from 120 Water Inc. for copper and lead software. Inv: 3/31/25. PO: 6/4/25.
- \$10,359.43 from Ohio Public Works Commission for a loan payment. Inv.: 5/15/25. PO: 6/4/25.
- \$30,139.59 from Rumpke for refuse pickup. Inv.: 5/19/25. PO: 6/4/25.
- \$5,342.78 from Ohio Netting & Fence for a change order on the pickleball court project. Inv: 6/4/25. PO: 6/12/25.

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

Ms. Clonch informed the Commission that she included a memo in their packets showing changes made to the appropriations and transfers ordinances since they were placed on first reading. She noted the following amendments:

On the appropriations ordinance, the following sections were changed from the first reading:

Section 19: Added \$15,000 to transfer from General to the Pool

Section 74: Added \$27,320 for personnel costs upon the resignation of the Water Plant Supt.

Section 86: Added \$15,000 to the pool personnel for seasonal

Section 87: Added \$448,600 for the PFAS design plan (EPA grant)

On the transfer ordinance, the following section was changed from the first reading:

Section 2: Added \$15,000 to transfer from General to the Swimming Pool

Mr. Mike Carter inquired about the status of the Burkhart Lane project. The City Manager said there is a contractor in place and a pre-construction meeting will be held next week, so hopefully it will be starting soon.

Police Chief Justin Rice presented a life-saving award to Patrol Officer Ms. Meagan Burgess. On May 17th, a call came in to 911 of an infant choking at Piggly Wiggly. Ms. Burgess responded to the scene, and upon arrival, the infant was non-responsive and not breathing. She began life-saving measures, successfully reviving the child before EMS arrived. Without her prompt intervention, the infant would likely not have survived. Mr. Fulks stated on behalf of the Commission, they are very proud of Ms. Burgess, and the City is very lucky to have our Police Department.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Mr. Brian Young with Spectrum. He stated that the federal government had a grant program called the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) that focused on areas that had no or very poor internet service. Spectrum had always been a private capital company, but they decided to bid on government locations that were close to their existing infrastructure. They bid on every county that they already had service in around the State of Ohio, and were successful in being awarded grant dollars covering sixty-two counties. They are installing 435 miles of fiber lines in Gallia County, a 29.6 million dollar investment, and there are a few addresses that will be inside the City limits. Spectrum is aware of the City's required video service fees that will be collected and remitted. During installation, they usually attach to poles, but they have had issues getting pole permits and have had to go underground. The City Manager expressed his concern about them digging and possibly hitting our utility lines. He was also concerned because the timeframe Spectrum wants to install is the same time we have three other projects going on in town. Mr. Michael Cooper, construction manager with Spectrum, passed out a map to the Commission of the area where fiber lines will be installed inside the City and which lines they plan to put on poles or put underground. They will look at the areas that they have planned underground very

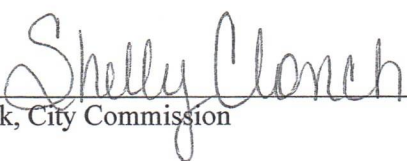
closely for any opportunities they would have to set poles. Mr. Cooper stated they have a required completion date of December 1st, but hope to be done by November 1st. Per their agreement with the government, they have specific addresses they have to install and will put door hangers out to let residents know they will be working in their area. The Commission decided that we need to sit down and discuss this project in more depth because Spectrum will have to collaborate with our engineer on the project. Mr. Noe said that he has a phone call scheduled with an attorney from the Ohio Municipal League to see if the City can impose any restrictions.

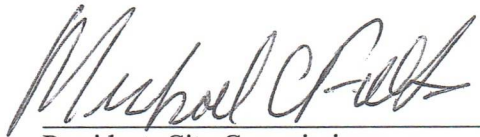
There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading, Ordinance No. O2025-21 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2025-09, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to amend the ordinance per the Auditor's memo dated 06/12/25, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to amend the ordinance, all votes were yes. Mr. Johnson 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. O2025-22 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2025-10, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to amend the ordinance per the Auditor's memo dated 06/12/25, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to amend the ordinance, all votes were yes. Mr. Johnson 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 first reading, Ordinance No. O2025-23 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 STREETS, POLICE, AND CEMETERY DEPARTMENTS OPERATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. 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