

October 21, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, October 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	Mike Carter	Betty Jo Carter	Keith Elliott
Joy Elliott	Jodie Penrod	Katie Ratliff	Penny Ratliff
Justin Rice	Jonathan Elliott		

The commission received the minutes from October 7<sup>th</sup> before this meeting. Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the October 7<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote to approve the minutes, all votes were yes.

The privilege of the floor was granted to Ms. Jodie Penrod and Ms. Katie Ratliff with the Downtown Revitalization Project. They were present tonight to discuss the City submitting an application for a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area). Ms. Ratliff stated that this is a perfect time with the riverfront expansion coming. This would allow visitors to stroll and have a beverage responsibly within a clearly marked area of downtown. The area they would like to include in the DORA would be from Vine Street to Pine Street, running from First Avenue (including riverfront) to Third Avenue, and would be from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. This would encourage more visitors and bring more business into our downtown area, and possibly attract new ones to come in. The Downtown Revitalization Project would provide the cups, decals, designated area signs, and window decals for participating businesses. Mr. Fulks and Mr. Johnson said they are for this, as were the other Commissioners in attendance. Ms. Penrod commented that she doesn't see it causing the need for additional law enforcement, and the Chief of Police has no issues since strict rules would be applied. Mr. Noe stated that he can let the Commission view other communities he has looked up that have a DORA. He will look into the timeline of submitting an application and holding a public hearing, as well as preparing the legislation.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Three crews are working on the water line replacement project on Third Avenue heading towards Pine Street, on Fourth Avenue replacing concrete walks at the school and bank areas, and on Fourth Avenue replacing the water main at Grape Street towards Vine Street. Lines on State Route 7 and State Route 218 were just finished, and pressure testing from Mill Creek to Olive Street.
- The contractor has brought in equipment for the Riverfront project and will be bringing in stone and sheet piling in the next couple of weeks.
- Irvin Saunders will begin renovation work on the Spring House at Mound Hill in early spring, thanks to the generous donations of two families totaling \$25,250.00.
- The pool has been winterized, and now we just need to keep the buzzards out of there from eating the caulking.
- Burkhart Lane has been paved, and the culvert lining is being finished.

- Charter is installing new fiber lines and has hit our water lines three times. They will be responsible for materials and labor for these repairs.
- Mr. Westfall asked Mr. Keith Elliott to give an update for the Fire Department.

Mr. Elliott said that the ladder truck is in need of repairs to replace the seals of the main water line at a cost of \$4,000. If they have to replace the pump, it could cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

He has applied for two grants. The first being for MARCS pagers for \$21,195 and MARCS fees of \$2,580.00. The second grant through the Fire Marshall's Office is for a battery-operated rescue tool to put on the main engine for \$21,515.00.

Chief Elliott recommended the appointment of Ms. Tammy O'Dell to the Volunteer Fire Department. An investigative committee was appointed, and their report was in favor of her appointment. Mr. Johnson made a motion that Ms. O'Dell be appointed to the Gallipolis Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

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

- \$4,286.40 from OBS Collision for repairs to fire truck 61. Inv: 8/14/25. PO: 8/25/25.
- \$30,054.51 from Rumpke for refuse collection. Inv: 9/17/25. PO: 10/9/25
- \$4,876.25 from Service Pump & Supply for blower repair at the WWTP. Inv: 9/18/25. PO: 10/9/25.

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 said she informed the Commission at the last meeting that the City has the option of doing a moratorium for the December 2025 health insurance premium. This would come from our reserve, which currently sits at around 1.1 million. It would be a win for the City and a win for the employee, as they would not have to pay their employee share for December. With the savings, we can also pass it on to the employees by increasing their Christmas bonus to \$400. Mr. Jenkins voted to move forward with the moratorium for the December 2025 health insurance premium, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice on the motion, all votes were yes.

Mr. Johnson recognized Mike and Betty Jo Carter, who are in attendance tonight, and had a big part in getting over 1,000 light balls in the park hung so far. They plan to hang approximately 2,200 lighted balls in the trees, plus all the additional tree lights and decorations, before the night of the lighting.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading, Resolution No. R2025-08 entitled **A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF GALLIA COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.** 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 second reading, Resolution No. R2025-09 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES FOR USE BY THE CITY IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026 AS HEREIN DESCRIBED.** 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 first reading, Resolution No. R2025-10 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO AN ES-SDC GRANT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS FOR DESIGN OF THE PFAS FILTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. 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. O2025-29 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A CHRISTMAS BONUS TO ALL PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, CERTAIN ELIGIBLE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES, AND ALL APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to amend the ordinance to replace the \$300 per full-time employee with \$400 per full-time employee, 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. O2025-30 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A BONUS TO GALLIPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT (GFD) FIREFIGHTERS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

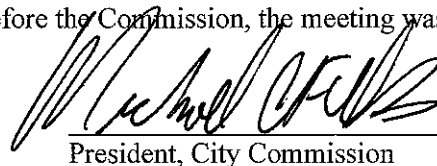
There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading, Ordinance No. O2025-31 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE PERMITS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLICIT FROM THE OCCUPANT OF A VEHICLE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 371.06 (B)(2) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. 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 second reading, Ordinance No. O2025-32 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR HOSPITALIZATION, MEDICAL, AND MAJOR MEDICAL, AND DRUG INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. 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 second reading, Ordinance No. O2025-33 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTED SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL HEALTH CLINICS FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITY OF GALLIPOLIS EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon roll call to adopt the ordinance on the second 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