

November 18, 2025

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, November 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 President Mr. Michael Fulks called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember those less fortunate than us this time of year.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

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

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager  
Whitney Vilfer, Administrative Purchasing Asst. (filling in for the City Auditor)  
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor  
Chad Vaughn, River Cities News  
Ronnie Lynch                      Keith Elliott                      Joy Elliott                      Justin Rice  
Marvin Ours                      Cheryl McGuire                      JD McGuire                      Mike Carter

The commission received the minutes from November 4<sup>th</sup> before this meeting. Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the November 4<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Upon voice vote to approve the minutes, all votes were yes.

Cheryl McGuire requested the privilege of the floor to discuss the garbage service and the increase in price to \$27.12 per month. She stated that there is a local company that only charges \$18.00 per month and \$16.50 per month for veterans and seniors. Ms. McGuire said she knows that residents have to use the City's contractor and suggested that the City get a different garbage service or let the residents pick their own. Mr. Fulks explained that the service is bid out, and the City accepts the lowest bid. The reason behind having a city-wide refuse pickup service is that you would have individuals who would not obtain any service, and then you have trash piling up, making the City look terrible. Mr. Johnson said that we are in a contract and cannot do anything until the service is bid out again. Ms. Vilfer stated that it is a three to four-year contract and should go out to bid again at the end of 2026. Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Vilfer if she could get the Commission a copy of the rates under the current bid, and the Commission agreed to review it.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The Shelly Company has completed our paving project, which is partially paid through grant and loan proceeds. With some new income coming in from the income tax levy, we hope to have a nice schedule in place for the next few years.
- The water replacement project has been challenging the last few weeks, with problems with lines, railroad tracks, and other objects to move around. According to the engineers, the project is currently at 19% complete.
- The sea wall at the riverfront project is currently being installed and moving quickly.
- He is working with a contractor on the repair of the Gallipolis entrance sign at State Route 141 and State Route 7. We have insurance funds set aside to pay for this.
- Maintenance has been running the leaf route, and unfortunately, has been having some trouble with the machine, which is only a few years old. We have to call the manufacturer often, and it is currently getting scheduled repairs. The leaf schedule will continue through the month of December.
- Gallipolis in Lights will have its opening ceremony on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Johnson asked what we are doing on the DORA proposal. Mr. Noe said the next step is that we need to run two notices during a two-week timeframe to inform residents of a public hearing on the proposal. He said the Commission would need to make a motion for those ads to run. The first reading of an ordinance could be done the same evening as the public hearing. The ads have to be run within 45 days of the application being submitted, and the ordinance has to be approved within 60 days of the first ad of the public hearing being published. If, during the public hearing, the City decides on any changes, they can be made between the first and second reading of the ordinance. Mr. Johnson made a motion to run the ads for the DORA public hearing, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Ms. Vilfer presented seven invoices over \$3,000 for approval of payment:

- \$4,000.00 from We Pyro It for Gallipolis in Lights fireworks. Inv: 10/10/25. PO: 11/6/25.
- \$3,339.79 from Allcom for upgraded phone system. Inv: 10/16/25. PO: 11/6/25.
- \$8,200.00 from Chargepoint for software and hardware contract. Inv: 11/27/24. PO: 11/6/25
- \$1,140,812.40 from CJ Hughes for water line construction. Inv: 8/29/25. PO: 11/6/25.
- \$19,407.79 from Ohio Valley Bank for fire equipment bond. Inv: 10/28/25. PO: 11/6/25.
- \$14,561.39 from Ohio Valley Bank for street improvement bond. Inv: 10/28/25. PO: 11/6/25.
- \$30,097.05 from Rumpke for refuse pickup. Inv: 10/16/25. PO: 11/6/25.

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

The Commission received their October 2025 financial statement at the last meeting to review and Ms. Vilfer asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the October 2025 financial statement, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Solicitor said that Resolution R2025-12, which was added to the agenda tonight to appoint a Board of Trustees to the Sinking Fund, is required by Section 29 of the City Charter. This board would have the responsibility to appoint a City Commissioner in the case of a Commission seat vacancy needing to be filled, and the City Commission's vote for an appointment is a 2-2 tie vote. This board has lapsed, and we need to make the appointments to get in line with the Charter.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading, Resolution No. R2025-11 entitled **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT TEMPORARY AND PERPETUAL EASEMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF INGRESS AND EGRESS FOR WATER LINE REPLACEMENT FROM ANDREW LAWRENCE AND DAPHNE LAWRENCE.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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 first reading, Resolution No. R2025-12 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SINKING FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 29 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO.** Mr. Johnson made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. 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. O2025-34 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR HIGHWAY DE-ICING, CALCIUM CHLORIDE AND COLD MIX.** 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 was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading, Ordinance No. O2025-35 entitled **AN ORDINANCE SETTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**. Mr. Brown 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 being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, City Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, City Commission