

March 17, 2026

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a special session on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 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 C. 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  
Michael D. Carter, Member  
Dennis L. Kirby, Member

Others attending were:

John Westfall, City Manager  
Shelly Clonch, City Auditor  
Andrew Noe, City Solicitor  
Ronnie Lynch                      Joy Elliott                      Keith Elliott                      Justin Rice  
Jim Osborne                      Terry McKinniss                      Lynne Frazier                      Josh Bodimer  
Betty Jo Carter

The commission received the minutes from March 3<sup>rd</sup> before this meeting. Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes, seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon a voice vote to approve the minutes, all votes were yes.

During the privilege of the floor, Jim Osborne, as he had stated in previous meetings, was here to make sure Hedgewood Drive was not forgotten. He said that Mr. McKinniss, who was present tonight, has some older research on Hedgewood Drive that he would be willing to share. They have tried to contact several congressmen but have not been successful. The City Manager said he found a geo-tech report and a core sampling report and sent them to the City's engineer and also the County Engineer. Ms. Lynne Frazier mentioned drainage issues she has been having from water coming off of Oakwood Drive. Mr. Fulks suggested having a work session with the City, Hedgewood Drive residents, and engineers to have more time to discuss options instead of trying to fit it into a Commission business meeting. All parties were in agreement with this.

Also speaking during the privilege of the floor was Mr. Josh Bodimer, who was there to explain the ordinance that was on the agenda tonight to vacate a portion of the alley between Eastern Avenue and Chatham Avenue, according to the map attached to the ordinance. He has clients who are purchasing the property on each side of the alley and would like to join them into one piece of property in the hopes of building an express oil change business. The area has been surveyed, and there are no utilities currently under that portion of the alley. All residents affected in that area have signed off on consent forms and were given to the City Solicitor.

Fire Chief Keith Elliott recommended the appointment of Logan Conn and Ethan Mays as volunteer firefighters. An investigating committee was appointed and reported favorably on each candidate. Mr. Kirby made a motion to appoint Mr. Conn and Mr. Mays to the Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon a voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Contractors at the Riverfront are still pouring concrete and hope to have the lower level finished in the next couple of weeks. They are also working on the slope of the bank for ADA accessibility.
- The water line replacement project contractor is on Upper Route 7, close to Airport Road on Eastern Avenue. They will have to bore under the road, and there are a lot of utilities there.
- There was a water break on the 300 block of First Avenue that was accidentally hit by a contractor. He was there, and the contractor stayed until City workers got the leak repaired.
- Cold weather is back again, and our salt supply is getting low. We currently have an order placed, and he has talked to other entities that have been having trouble getting salt in stock.
- Due to the high winds over the weekend, we lost a tree in the City Park that was pretty rotten in the middle and snapped at the base.
- Working to get the pool ready by draining water and painting.
- We have secured three more grants through the Ohio EPA, being \$50,000 for a booster station generator, \$20,000 for a water asset management program, and \$15,000 for a well abandonment.

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

- \$13,390.00 from Stronghold Security for the upgrade of security access at the Justice Center. Inv: 1/14/26. PO: 1/23/26.
- \$26,026.75 from Arcadis for engineering – water line replacement. Inv: 2/10/26. PO: 3/6/26.
- \$4,700.00 from Bridgeport for Gallipolis in Lights lift rental. Inv: 12/31/25. PO: 1/13/26.
- \$266,531.28 from CJ Hughes Construction for water line replacement. Inv: 1/8/26. PO: 3/9/26.
- \$5,050.23 from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp for monthly premium. Inv: 2/27/26. PO: 3/9/26.
- \$31,233.44 from Rumpke for refuse collection. Inv: 2/17/26. PO: 3/9/26.

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

Ms. Clonch stated that the Commission received the February 2026 financial statement in their packet prior to this meeting, and she asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Kirby made a motion to approve the February 2026 financial statement, seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon a voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

Dr. Thomas inquired about the old water level gauge that is gone that was located near the stairs that were just taken out at the riverfront. He said that it would be nice to have something like that again. The City Manager contacted the contractor, and he is looking to see if they can find it. We may have to come up with an updated alternative to replace it.

Mr. Carter asked the City Manager if he had received any feedback from the letters sent out by Code Enforcement concerning individuals bringing their personal trash into town and putting it in City trash cans. Mr. Fulks said Mr. Bostic informed him that he received only one response from an individual who thought the letter was about them personally, and Mr. Bostic assured them that the whole area received a letter.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading, Resolution No. R2026-01 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ALL-NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN PREPARED BY A CORE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING VARIOUS ENTITIES IN GALLIA COUNTY.** Mr. Kirby made a motion to place the resolution on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon a 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. O2026-05 entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO APPLY TO AND ACCEPT THE COMMUNITY GRANT FROM THE SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (SOPEC)**. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon a roll call to adopt the Ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

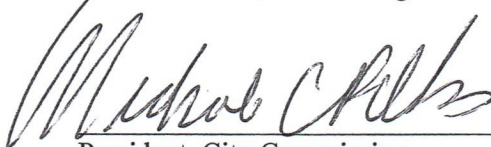
There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading, Ordinance No. O2026-06 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR ASPHALT, LIMESTONE, AND BEDDING SAND**. Dr. Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Kirby. Upon a voice vote to place the Ordinance on the first reading, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a first reading, Ordinance No. O2026-07 entitled **AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN ALLEY PARALLEL WITH AND BETWEEN EASTERN AVENUE AND CHATHAM STREET IN GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Kirby made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon a 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