

May 5, 2026

The Gallipolis City Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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 Kay Dey Mat Roberts Mary Nally
Joy Elliott Keith Elliott Marvin Ours Steve Cain
Jim Osborne Tim Merry Lisa Merry Ron Halley
Jeffrey Dell Janice Dell Justin Rice Larry Taylor
Berry Jo Carter Troy Miller Meghan Miller

The commission received the minutes from April 21st before this meeting. Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the April 21st minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon a voice vote to approve the minutes, all votes were yes.

Privilege of the Floor:

- Mr. Jim Osborne said he appreciated the report of the County Engineer's estimate to do a temporary repair on Hedgewood Drive and mentioned that his driveway still has not been fixed. He also stated that there is no light on the bridge going out on State Street, and this is very dangerous at night with people walking. Mr. Westfall said that is something he can reach out to AEP about.
- Present at the meeting tonight were residents of First Avenue who expressed concerns about the noise level at the Public Use Area at night and vehicles speeding. The noise can go on till around 2 to 3 in the morning, thus affecting the residents' sleep. These vehicles, mostly young people, leave trash everywhere, have no respect, and it gets frustrating. They do call the police when it is going on. Police Chief Justin Rice said they have had 8 calls since January, but he can't put an officer there at all hours because he does not have that kind of manpower. The main spokesman for the group, Mr. Ron Halley, requested that a gate be put up to be closed at night to prevent vehicles from going down there. Mr. Fulks said that the City would have to check with the Corps of Engineers because they own that, and some use the boat launch area to night fish. The City Manager will reach out to them to see if a gate is possible.
- Mr. Larry Taylor with Trebel Energy, who administers the City's gas aggregation program, presented an addendum to the Commission for consideration. Residents have been getting a guaranteed 2% savings. Energy rates are expected to continue to climb until 2030, and Trebel Energy would like to get residents locked into a fixed rate. The rate would be guaranteed to be less than .799 per CCF, and it currently looks like the rate offered will be .699 per CCF. During the summer months, the standard rates with Columbia Gas run .48 or .49 per CCF, but will climb in the fall and winter months, and this is where residents would see their savings. Residents always have the option to opt out or in at any time with no penalties.

- Ms. Mary Nally and Mr. Mat Roberts, with SOPEC, administrators of the City's electric aggregation, were also present to discuss the City's renewal in the program. Since January of 2021, residents have seen a total savings of \$164,431.26, and the City's public pricing accounts have seen a savings of \$210,006.62 since June of 2023. AEP will publish its standard rate in June, which is estimated to be 10.1, and another rate in July, estimated to be in the high 10's or lower 11's, that will cover the third quarter. Also, PUCO has approved a \$10.00 transmission increase, no matter what supplier you have. SOPEC is offering a 12-month pricing term at a fixed rate of 11.26 to residents, who will then see savings later as AEP standard rates continue to climb, as per past years' trend. Residents and small businesses can opt in or out at any time and can shop the market but are encouraged to read the fine print. Also, \$10.00 for every meter that is enrolled with SOPEC is set aside as a grant for the City to use for any sustainability project. For the City's public pricing accounts, they are seeking a 1 to 3 year term at a rate between 8.6 and 8.8 per kWh. The City Auditor and City Manager also reminded Ms. Nally and Mr. Roberts that the electric charging stations have a special tariff and are not to be included in the aggregation.

The Commission plans to hold a work session on Monday, May 11th, at 4:00 to discuss the proposed options on both the gas aggregation and the electric aggregation.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Did a complete walk-through with Arcadis at the Riverfront project today and made notes of any changes that needed to be made. The street pavers are being installed, and grass seed and straw have been put down. They still need to work on light poles, electrical work, and dock work.
- The water line replacement project has added 5 additional crews. They are starting to connect service lines to the mains and doing valve installs.
- We will be doing some more street paving this year, and the Auditor will talk tonight about financing options, as we did not get any grant funding. We will reapply for the next round of OPWC funding.
- The pool motor was started up today, and will be up and running for when the pool season opens at the end of the month.
- We received a quote from the County Engineer to do a temporary fix for the road at Hedgewood Drive for \$38,768.00. This will have to work until we can get big grant funding. Mr. Carter made a motion to accept and proceed with the Engineer's quote, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon a voice vote, all votes were yes, with Mr. Fulks abstaining.

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

- \$4,235.21 from Boyd Company to troubleshoot transfer ship & labor. Inv: 2/4/26. PO: 4/20/26.
- \$3,000.00 from Henschen & Associates for customer service agreement. Inv: 4/13/26. PO: 4/20/26.
- \$5,050.23 from Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp for monthly premium. Inv: 3/27/26. PO: 4/20/26.
- \$12,625.00 from Saunders Contracting for spring house renovations. Inv: 4/26/26. PO: 4/29/26

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

Ms. Clonch sent out requests for proposals to all local banks for a \$400,000, 5-year term loan for street paving. Ohio Valley Bank offered an interest rate of 5.64%, and WesBanco offered 6.16%. She requested a motion to accept Ohio Valley Bank's proposal and to move forward with bond council. Mr. Carter made a motion to accept OVB's proposal and proceed with bond council, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon a voice vote on the motion, all votes were yes.

On the agenda tonight are two emergency ordinances to amend the appropriations and transfers ordinances. Ms. Clonch stated she knew not everyone agreed with passing legislation as emergencies, but these appropriations are needed to move forward with grants and purchases. She highlighted some of the appropriation changes, such as the purchase of fire gear through a BWC grant, replacing the flower watering truck, the paving and repair of streets, the purchase of property, new streetscape lights, a lime slaker at the water plant, audit fees, a new resident alert system, and the hiring of a project coordinator.

There was presented and read to the Commission as a second reading. R2026-02 entitled **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREW NOE AS THE CITY SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 20 AND 21 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon a 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, Ordinance No. O2026-08 entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTATION TO SELL THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 75 CEDAR STREET IN THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO**. Mr. Carter made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. 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 second reading, Ordinance No. O2026-09 entitled **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND REJECTING BIDS FOR THE MEDIA REPLACEMENT OF TWO GRAVITY FILTER CELLS**. Mr. Kirby made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon a roll call to adopt the Ordinance on the second reading, all votes were yes.

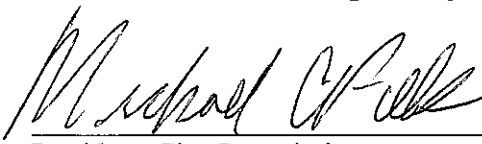
There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency Ordinance No. O2026-10 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2026-03, SETTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026**. Mr. Carter made a motion to adopt the ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Dr. Thomas. Upon a roll call to adopt the Ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

There was presented and read to the Commission as an emergency Ordinance No. O2026-11 entitled **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O2026-04, AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER OR ADVANCE FUNDS**. Mr. Kirby made a motion to adopt the ordinance as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon a roll call to adopt the Ordinance as an emergency, all votes were yes.

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



Clerk, City Commission



President, City Commission