

**GALION CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
January 10, 2017**

The January 10, 2017 meeting of Galion City Council was called to order by President Watt. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

Clerk of Council Julie Bell called roll with the following members present: Mr. Baldinger, Mr. Comerford, Dr. Fellner, Mr. Hedges, and Mr. Triplett.

Mr. Triplett made the motion to excuse Mrs. Bean and Ms. Clark. Dr. Fellner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The roll call for elected officials and officials required by Council Rules and the Ohio Revised Code to be present was called with the following present: Mayor O'Leary, Auditor Treisch, Treasurer Sparks, and Director of Law Palmer.

Department Heads in attendance: Bob Johnston and Matt Echelberry.

President Watt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 27, 2016. Mr. Comerford made the motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mr. Hedges. Motion carried and minutes were approved as presented.

President Watt asked for a motion to add Ordinance No. 2017-1 to the agenda. Mr. Hedges made the motion seconded by Mr. Comerford. Roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Baldinger, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea, Mr. Triplett, yea. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Comerford made the motion to approve the agenda as amended seconded by Dr. Fellner. Motion carried.

**Public Participation**

Dennis Long, Representing the Board of Health. Spoke about the filling the positions on the Board of Health. With him going off the Board there will only be 3 members. They have been functioning with 4 since the Licensing Board Member has not been filled. He asked for all 5 positions to be filled in order to operate with a full Board of Health.

**Legislation**

**Ordinance No. 2016-118 (Second Reading)**

Entitled an Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety-Service Director to advertise pursuant to FAA requirements and the Ohio Revised Code for engineering / consulting services for the Airport and to enter into a contract with the firm deemed most qualified therefor, as provided by law, authorizing payment therefor, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Comerford made the motion to approve seconded by Mr. Baldinger.

The roll call on Ordinance No. 2016-118 resulted as follows: Mr. Comerford, yea, Mr. Baldinger, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea, Mr. Triplett, yea. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0 and Ordinance No. 2016-118 passed for a second reading.

**Ordinance No. 2017-1 (First Reading)**

Entitled an Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts with the lowest and best bidders therefor, according to law, for the purchase of certain

materials and equipment required and needed for the operation of the various departments of the City of Galion, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Triplett made the motion to approve seconded by Mr. Comerford.

The roll call on Ordinance No. 2017-1 resulted as follows: Mr. Triplett, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea, Mr. Baldinger, yea. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0 and Ordinance No. 2017-1 passed for a first reading.

#### Other Business

Upcoming committees:

Laws, Ordinances, Zoning & Permits –January 17, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation –January 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. - CANCELLED

Police, Fire and Health – January 25, 2017– 7:00 p.m.

Utilities –February 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Finance – January 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development and Airport – January 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Streets, Alleys, Trees and Bridges – TBD

Liquor License Transfer from Varsity Grille to Bennett Enterprises LLC (Ralphie’s) No objections or request for a hearing.

No objections on annual renewal of City of Galion liquor licenses.

#### Auditor’s Report

Nothing to report – December is almost done.

#### Treasurer’s Report

No Report

#### Director of Law

Submitted his annual report as required by ORC 733.62

#### Mayor’s Report

Annual Report

Police Department – Items to note for 2017 are retirements and transfers out. Have one patrolman leaving the department, one of our detectives retired a week or so ago and one of other lieutenants is scheduled for retirement mid- year. So the turnover in the department continues and without jinxing any of us, if you have had any chance, it is not always a good thing to encounter one of our patrolman but the more junior people seem to have a real good demeanor and I hear a lot of positives things and I have interacted with them and they have been real assets to the city and the direction the police department is going. One of the things that we are going to be working on this year is finding the right mix of lieutenants and the right mix of detectives. One of the reasons that there has been the headway in the attack in the heroin and some of the harder drugs in town is that they have had 3 detectives working on that. With Danny leaving we are going to have to assess how or whether to get back to three as well as bringing in some new people. So there is a current pool of applicants that have been civil service processed and they are getting ready to do interviews. That is the most notable thing about the police department.

Fire Department – It was just a few weeks ago that we swore in lieutenants. So I think there is a turnover in the fire department that leads to succession planning and kind a new leadership group over there. Captain Eagle doing fire inspections has a lot of interaction with Bob. Both police and fire have been within their budget and there is going to be some money transferred from the 103 and 104 funds back into the general fund.

Street Department – the amount of money from the General Fund to the Street Fund in 2016 is several hundred thousand dollars less than we expected. It is going to take another year or two to be able to predict where the salaries are going to fall within that service department. So we didn't use as much manpower in the street department part of that service department budget. The take away from that is they stayed within their resources and that money was never transferred out the general fund. So as you look at the general fund balance that is another thing that allows it to stay as buoyant as it has been.

Utilities – Mark has a meeting last week trying to get our minds around what to do with utility rates. I think that is in service and the three utility departments, I think that is going to be one of the biggest challenges this year. We are looking at some of the projections and I think the take away I would say without going into it in any great detail, is that I don't see any need for increases in water or sewer rates until the recovery plan says and I am talking about a projected increase in 2019. That is a long ways away. Our intention is to manage the funds so that we can push back and reduce the amount of the utility increases in the water and sewer. Electric. – We contacted Sawvel last week and have asked them to take a look at kind of a limited set of tasks to help the committee in looking at what the cost allocation would be. One of the things, as you study that and not every has to or does, the revenue was a little bit peeked in 605. I think one of the things that happened there and that is one of the reasons we decided to go ahead and call Sawvel, is in our budget in going forward we never accounted for the loss of the HTI electric revenue. So that kind of fell off and we weren't purchasing as much power. So when you look at the purchase of power number as well as we weren't selling as much because of that. That is something that they are going to look at as well as the cost and really try to address some of the issues that came up at the meeting. I feel very comfortable about how those utilities were managed last year. We got some major projects done in the sewer area, the Main Line contractor that is completing the electric upgrade has progressed real well, I say that not only how well it is operating but I also don't think any of us have heard much about it. The previous contractor that was a mess almost every day. So this has gone a lot better and I think they will be out of here on time completing a project that started a dozen years or more ago. The sewer project – the screw pumps – is in process. Next year's sewer fund will have to look at carefully throughout the year and see which capital projects we can fit in and which ones have to continue to be furloughed.

Portland Way Project – some good news on that, the amount of the sewer replacement that we are going to have to do is several hundred feet less. So at \$85 to \$90 a foot that's a considerable savings coming out of the sewer fund portion of that project. That project is being designed and ready for sale as soon as possible. It is not dependable on any issue 1 funding. It seems to me the sooner we get that bid I think that will be to our advantage to get an early project in the bidding cycle. If maintenance of traffic is something that is important to you and you think about how traffic is maintained through a project and you have any time come up to the office and we will talk about it. Because I have a different opinion than what was originally offered by the city engineer in terms of how you build that project. So I think it is real important to get some feedback on that. I think that we are more likely to have a partial width construction where we do things north and south instead of like what we did in the concrete project on Portland Way South. Looking at building land by land instead of in sections. With Ralphie's opening up in March you aren't going to want to practically shut them down in the first few months they are in business. It is always important to consider the schools access through that corridor. There is no good local detour.

Airport – Remains something that's needs elevated as priority to get the operations under control financially.

Storm Water – we didn't spend as much on people but we are continuing to use the storm water assessments to help assist in the roadway construction projects. Storm sewer associated with building the new road we are going to charge that part of the contract to the storm sewer fund. It is a little bit different from how it was done previously at the city.

Economic Development – we are getting a little bit of activity that is not just coincidental its more of in terms of momentum. Most everyone knows there is all kinds of activity up and down Portland Way

which is a really good thing. There is a lot of work being done on providing some sort of grocery facility toward the east side. There is a plan being worked on to get some expansion there. The activity on Brandt road continues. There is two or three irons in the fire there. I think there is something that I am glad Bill is going to have a committee meeting this month. I think there is some things that we need to begin to discuss about succession of our tenants at the Commerce Center and how to structure things for a future tenant so we can move toward and acquisition of that. The end of 2018 is going to happen sooner than we realize. There is a fair amount of activity there and I am encouraged that we can take that facility and get it into new hands and then move forward onto our next development project. I am guardedly optimistic about what we are going to see in terms of industrial development this year.

CRA- The use of the CRA – we have a meeting on Monday night in which we will consider an application from Englefield Oil for a project they weren't going to do 3-5 years ago, they are doing it know in large part because the CRA helps change the economy and I think Galion is a better place to invest. It is a neat little project. It just demonstrates that there has been a series of these CRA applications. So that tool that we all put in place months ago is really beginning to hit on a lot of cylinders of the commercial side. Where we are going to focus, meaning the Mayor's office, over the next year is trying to put some things together on housing.

President of Council

No Report

President Watt asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Triplett made the motion seconded by Mr. Hedges. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Carl W. Watt**  
**Council President**

**Julie L. Bell**  
**Clerk of Council**