

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

The October 10 2017 meeting of Galion City Council was called to order by President Carl Watt. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by an invocation from Pastor Ash Welch of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

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

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, Director of Law Palmer, and Auditor Treisch.

Department Heads in attendance: Bob Johnston and Matt Echelberry.

President Watt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 26, 2017. Mr. Baldinger made the motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mr. Comerford. Motion carried.

Mr. Triplett made the motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Mrs. Bean. Motion carried.

President Watt read excerpts from a letter from Next Gen regarding their experience with the city.

**Public Comments**

Alice Matthews, 713 Charles Street, Galion, Ohio I have two questions and the reason I came to you is because I already asked the ladies at the electric office and they really didn't give me an answer. There is a ten dollar customer charge on there and I want to know what that goes to do for the city and then there is an adjustment cost on there and I want what does that do?

Mayor O'Leary explained that the ten dollar customer charge is there to raise money to cover the overhead and operations of the city. So it is employees' wages and benefits and then the materials that are used through the year. The customer charge covers some but not all of those costs. Then the PCA is the charge that according to the council ordinance, each six months it is a requirement to review our actual cost of power and the revenue generated through the rates. Then the PCA is set up to raise additional revenue to make up for the increase in cost of power. Every six months we do that and it moves up. About a year and a half ago it was zero. There was one six month period where it was a negative number but by and large it goes up every six months based on the increase cost of power.

Ms. Matthews stated that it was her understanding that when we bought that contract it was at a set fee. When we signed the contract with Sawvel.

Mr. O'Leary explained that all do is look at the projected revenue and projected expenses and give recommendations to the city about where the rates should be set.

Ms. Matthews asked if that was per household.

Mr. O'Leary explained that it was per kilowatt hour consumed. The PCA. It was asked at the last meeting it applies to all customer categories the same rate...the residential PCA and the commercial PCA, large power PCA's are all the same based on their kilowatt hour consumption.

Ms. Matthews stated so it is not rent for the meters.

Mr. O'Leary stated I don't know who might have said that but that is not it. It is really the cost of power and the thing that has been changing the most is not really the cost of the power coming out of our power

sources it is really the transmission charge and the charge to move from region to another. That is called congestion.

Ms. Matthews thanked them.

Mr. Treisch clarified one point regarding the ten dollar charge. It stays within the electric fund to make sure everyone had that clear.

Mr. O'Leary stated that there isn't a specific customer charge on your water and sewer bill. The customer charge is for the electric fund and it goes back into the electric fund.

Ms. Matthews asked who watches all that.

Mr. Treisch stated that he did.

Ms. Matthews stated that if it stays in the city fund what does that cover.

Mr. Treisch explained that they use fund accounting and what that means is that the electric, sewer, water, and storm sewer are four separate funds as well as the general fund. The general fund primarily takes care of general city operations for the most part. The electric fund is strictly for the electric department and the other three funds that are enterprise funds are the same. You track those separately. It must be that way per the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Watt clarified that the story on Facebook concerning the Mayor and the Auditor proposes 8.6% increase in the electric rates. That is not so. That was through a study of Sawvel and certainly no recommendation by any of the city officials. Sawvel feels that it what it takes to bring the account up even and so forth. The committee and so forth are looking at possibly through attrition and so forth certainly not that kind of an increase. I just wanted to verify that since we are on the subject.

President Watt also explained the need to speak up. There are a couple that are very difficult to hear so when you speak other than the council please give your name and so forth. She knows who you are mostly but if somebody asks for a copy of tape they won't know who is saying what.

### **Legislation**

#### **Ordinance No. 2017-53 (Third Reading)**

An Ordinance setting the Power Cost Adjustment as required per Ordinance No. 2015-39, and declaring an emergency.

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

The roll call on Ordinance No. 2017-53 resulted as follows: Mr. Triplett, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, no, Mr. Baldinger, yea, Mrs. Bean, yea, Ms. Clark, yea. Motion carried by a vote of 6-1 and Ordinance No. 2017-53 passed for a Final Reading.

#### **Ordinance No. 2017-55 (First Reading)**

An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to contract for internet auction services to dispose of unneeded personal property owned by the City of Galion, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Bean made the motion to approve seconded by Mr. Comerford.

Mr. Baldinger made a motion to correct the ordinance in section one deleting the word contract and inserting memorandum of understanding and to reflect the proper address for the company. Mr. Triplett seconded the motion. The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Baldinger, yea, Mr. Triplett, yea, Mrs. Bean, yea, Ms. Clark, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea. Motion carried.

Dr. Fellner made the motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the final reading on Ordinance No. 2017-55. Mr. Comerford seconded the motion. The roll call on the motion resulted as follows: Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea, Mr. Triplett, yea, Mr. Baldinger, yea, Mrs. Bean, yea, Ms. Clark, yea. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

The roll call on Ordinance No. 2017-55 resulted as follows: Mrs. Bean, yea, Mr. Comerford, yea, Dr. Fellner, yea, Mr. Hedges, yea, Mr. Triplett, yea, Mr. Baldinger, yea Ms. Clark, yea. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0 and Ordinance No. 2017-55 passed for a Final Reading.

#### Other Business

Upcoming committees:

Laws, Ordinances, Zoning & Permits –

Police, Fire and Health – October 25, 2017– 7:00 p.m. -CANCELLED

Utilities – October 25, 2017 – Special Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Finance – October 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and November 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Parks and Recreation –October 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Joe Kleinknecht announced that October is Manufacturing Month. The Manufacturing Breakfast is being held on October 18, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at the Galion High School. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

#### Auditor's Report

Announced that if anyone had questions they are welcome to come to his office and he will address them. Will send out an updated list for Budget Meeting. The VIP Conference was very good. Will be adding analytics to the system.

#### Treasurer's Report

Sent out his Bank Reconciliation. \$21M in the bank. General Fund is good. Electric Fund is up to \$3.7M. Stressed the need to get the electric fund in shape.

#### Director of Law

Reminded that all elected officials need to complete a Sunshine Law Training.

#### Mayor's Report

The special utility meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> will be to discuss the Sawvel Study.

Paving is ongoing. There is some corrective work that needs done. Should be done soon. Not accepting work that is up to our quality standards. We have someone that is out there while the work is taking place. Liberty Street has a low spot that needs to be fixed.

#### President of Council

Nothing at this time.

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

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

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