

**GALION CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of Galion City Council was called to order by President Baldinger at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said followed by the Invocation given by Ms. George. The following Council members were present: Ms. George, Dr. Fellner, Mr. Keib, Mrs. Wade, Ms. Clark, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Baldinger.

President Baldinger asked if there were any changes to the minutes dated February 23, 2010. There being no changes, a motion was made by Dr. Fellner and seconded by Mrs. Wade that the minutes dated February 23, 2010 be approved as written. Motion carried.

President Baldinger asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Wade suggested an Executive Session be added to discuss the hiring of a City Manager. Mr. Keib responded that he didn't think an Executive Session was necessary because Mrs. Wade corrupted and compromised the City Manager position by contacting applicants and sending fiscal emergency information to one applicant. Mrs. Wade replied that she only called one applicant to get references and never sent out any information on fiscal emergency that isn't already public information. She also pointed out that other council members have called applicants to get references. President Baldinger stated that he asked Mrs. Wade to call an applicant to get references since he was out of town last week, so that it could be discussed during Executive Session tonight. Mr. Keib also said that Mrs. Wade passed out a pamphlet on the applicants, analyzing the duties of the previous city manager and the potential city manager at a Finance Committee Meeting. Ms. George said that we should all have a say in who is contacted and what is said. Mrs. Wade stated that the pamphlet was about a proposal for the next city manager and reflected her opinion only. The pamphlet also included her opinion on creating a position for a public works superintendent to replace three department heads.

After brief further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. George and seconded by Dr. Fellner that an Executive Session be added to discuss the hiring of a City Manager and to amend the agenda. Motion carried.

**LEGISLATION**

Ordinance No. 2010-10 entitled an ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager of the City of Galion, Ohio, to advertise for bids and to enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder therefore, as provided by law, for Hensley Street improvements; authorizing payment therefore, and declaring an emergency. Acting City Manager Toy said that this is something we do every year. He said that \$38,000 will come from the FY2009 Community Development Block Grant Formula Fund and about \$16,000 from local fund (201) street construction, maintenance and repair fund.

Dr. Fellner asked how the streets are chosen. Acting City Manager Toy said that certain areas of town are chosen because they comply with the economic criteria outlined by the CDBG Formula Fund. This determines where the money is to be spent. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Keib, seconded by Ms. George and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-11 entitled an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Galion and the Galion Community Center YMCA to provide for the operation of the Heise Park Pool during the 2010 summer swimming season, and declaring an emergency. Acting City Manager Toy stated that Terry Gribble, Center Y Director, spoke at the last council meeting. The contract will remain the same as the last four years including the rate. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Ms. Clark and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-12 entitled an ordinance adopting new Galion Civil Service rules and regulations. This is the first reading of this ordinance. Acting City Manager Toy said that the Civil Service Commission approved the new rules and regulations on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tom Belding, Civil Service Commission member, stated that the rules and regulations needed updated to reflect the Ohio House Bill that was passed. Police Chief Saterfield said that one issue was concerning the promotion of a police officer. The City Charter says that an officer can be promoted after two years of service including the one year probation. The Civil Service rules say two years not including the one year probation. The City Charter supersedes the Civil Service rules. President Baldinger suggested this ordinance be put into the Laws & Ordinances Committee for further review. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously carried that this be considered the first reading of this ordinance and that this ordinance be referred to Laws & Ordinances Committee for discussion at their next meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Civil Service Commission will be invited to attend.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **The Finance Committee chaired by Mr. Keib discussed the following issues with Council:**

1. Interim Finance Director Jim Graff discussed the YTD Fund Summary Report dated February 28, 2010. The cash balance of total funds was \$18,060,634. Total revenues collected were \$5,101,147 and total expenses were \$4,638,804. He noted fund balances with negative dollar amounts: Fund 201 Street CM&R (\$1,116,589) and Fund 303 Cheshire (\$71,806). Mr. Graff said that we are 2 months into the year and revenues and expenses should be around 16.6%. We are still under collected in revenues by 1.28% which is not too bad. Our expenses are still under budget and remain roughly .4%.

**The Laws & Ordinances Committee chaired by Ms. George discussed the following issues with Council:**

1. Ms. George said they met tonight before the Council meeting. Linda Armour, Crawford County Dog Warden, gave a brief presentation on the ORC rules that she follows. Ms. George said the committee will make sure our ordinance reflects the ORC rules.
2. Matt Ross, City Electrical Inspector, presented a final draft concerning Chapter 1337 Demolition. A couple of changes were noted including certificate of liability insurance, deposits to be made, and failure to comply. Ms. George asked that legislation be prepared for council's review for the first meeting in April.

**The Planning, Zoning & Utilities Committee chaired by Dr. Fellner discussed the following issues with Council:**

1. Dr. Fellner said that the committee met February 23<sup>rd</sup> and reviewed the zoning ordinance and legislation. He also said the committee is going to be reviewing water, sewer, and electric rates with the Finance Committee over the next several months.
2. The next Planning, Zoning & Utilities Committee meeting is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:15 p.m. in the municipal building.

**The Parks & Recreation Committee chaired by Ms. Clark discussed the following issues with Council:**

1. Ms. Clark said that she has received more information on the ice skating rink and why it is not freezing well. She learned that it being on concrete does not allow it to freeze well enough for ice skating. She is now getting information on a portable ice skating rink.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. George announced that the Galion Tree Commission is sponsoring an event for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. They are to take a picture of the student beside the tree that they received last year. Those students whose trees survived will be honored on Arbor Week. She would also like Council to recognize the winners at a future Council meeting.

## **ACTING CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Acting City Manager Toy said that he received notice that the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Galion as a Tree City.

Acting City Manager Toy gave an update on the city's salt supply: we have ordered 800 tons from the city's 2010 budget and we have 150 tons on hand now.

The Taylor Road compost facility will be open March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It will remain open for the season on the third Saturday of each month and the Friday before.

Acting City Manager Toy said that a Connect Ohio Meeting will be held tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. at Lowe Volk Park.

The Financial Planning & Oversight Committee will meet tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

Acting City Manager Toy gave an update on the Westmoor Sewer Project. Tracht Drive and Cline Drive are done and they continue working their way through the rest of the project.

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Baldinger announced a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m. this Thursday for Lori's Pastries on Harding Way East in the former Pop's Sweet Shop location.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brent Stevens, 604 West Church St., said that he owns a sign making business that is located on South St. He would like to move his business to John Carter's building which is about 50 feet away. He said he can't get the permit to move. He was told that his business wasn't listed as an accepted use in that area, although the area is zoned industrial. Mrs. Wade asked Bill Nedolast, City Building Inspector, how this could be resolved. He said they must go through the Planning & Zoning Commission for approval. This is due to the new zoning codes. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Stevens if he has contacted the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Stevens said that he tried, but was told they do not have a meeting scheduled until later and he needs to be out of his current location by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Keib stated that we will try to do whatever we can to help. We will contact someone on the Planning & Zoning Commission to see what can be done. Meanwhile, he asked Mr. Stevens to see if he could check on getting an extension at his current location. Mr. Stevens said he will do that.

John Carter, a Morrow County resident, said that he owns an electric business in town on Edwards Street. He feels the plans and permits process in Galion needs some improvement. He realized it is a necessity, but the permits process is very costly and time consuming. Mr. Carter said it could be streamlined and actually result in a cost savings. Mansfield is much easier to deal with. They have a person there who can look at plans and approve them without the plans being sent off somewhere and charging an absorbent amount of money. He said that Galion has the worst reputation for a plans and permits process in the surrounding area. Matt Ross, City Electric Inspector, said that the plans have to be sent out because they have to be approved by someone certified to do it. We don't have anyone here with the certification needed. Ms. George said that she would have the Laws & Ordinances Committee look into this.

Joe Kleinknecht, Chamber of Commerce President, stated that 3 other potential businesses inquired about starting up their business in the uptown and were told that they needed to go through the Planning & Zoning Commission because their business was not listed an acceptable use in the area. This all takes too much time and he feels the zoning codes needed re-examined. President Baldinger suggested the Planning, Zoning & Utilities Committee meet with the Laws & Ordinances Committee to discuss these issues.

City Law Director Reese Mills said that you will never get all the acceptable uses listed. The zoning code says that you have to go through the Planning & Zoning Commission for approval. The reason for this is the building department would be second guessing what is acceptable. That is one reason why the zoning code was set up that way.

Bill Faulds, 626 Biddle Road, said that he had the same problem. He wanted to rent some space uptown to start a wholesale bakery. He was told that he had to get plans submitted and it cost him \$935.00. He asked if he could get the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting moved up to an earlier date and was told no. He is asking for help on this as well.

Gary Miller, Crawford County Commissioner, announced a meeting for the Crawford County 20/20 Vision Project/Strategic Plan. The meeting will be held March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Galion Middle School. They will be discussing a betterment plan for the economy. He is very excited for the community and leaders to be involved. Everyone is invited.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. George that Council move into Executive Session to discuss the hiring of a City Manager at 8:48 p.m. The motion was carried by the following votes: Mrs. Wade – yea, Mr. Keib – yea, Mr. Smith – yea, Ms. Clark – yea, Ms. George – yea, Dr. Fellner – yea, and Mr. Baldinger – yea.

Council reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

President Baldinger presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to accept the contract for the new City Manager. A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. George to accept the recommended contract. Mrs. Wade noted that the contract includes a residency requirement that states the new City Manager will have to move within the city limits within the 12 month probationary period. The motion was then passed by the following votes: Mrs. Wade – yea, Mr. Keib – yea, Mr. Smith – yea, Ms. Clark – yea, Ms. George – yea, Dr. Fellner – yea, and Mr. Baldinger – yea.

President Baldinger asked for Council to make a motion for the person who shall be appointed to negotiate the contract with the potential new City Manager. Mrs. Wade made a motion to appoint President Baldinger as the person to negotiate the contract. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following votes: Mrs. Wade – yea, Mr. Keib – yea, Mr. Smith – yea, Ms. Clark – yea, Ms. George – yea, Dr. Fellner – yea, and Mr. Baldinger – yea.

Next, President Baldinger asked for a motion to appoint a new City Manager. Mr. Keib made a motion to appoint Dr. Lisa Thomas as the new City Manager. Mrs. Wade seconded the motion. Ms. George commented that they had some very good candidates. The motion was then passed by the following votes: Mrs. Wade – yea, Mr. Keib – yea, Mr. Smith – nay, Ms. Clark – yea, Ms. George – yea, Dr. Fellner – yea, and Mr. Baldinger – yea.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Gail Baldinger**  
**Council President**

**Michelle Talbott**  
**Clerk of Council**