

**GALION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 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 Mr. Keib. The following Council members were present: Ms. George, Dr. Fellner, Mr. Keib, Mr. Smith, Ms. Clark, and Mr. Baldinger. Mrs. Wade being absent, a motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. Keib and unanimously carried that her absence be excused.

President Baldinger asked if there were any changes to the minutes dated July 27, 2010. There being no changes, a motion was made by Ms. George and seconded by Ms. Clark that the minutes dated July 27, 2010 be approved as written.

President Baldinger asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There being no changes, a motion was made by Dr. Fellner and seconded by Mr. Smith that the agenda be approved as written.

LEGISLATION

Ordinance No. 2010-40 entitled an ordinance recognizing the prior service of Karen Shaw with other public agencies for the purpose of determining the rate of her accrual of vacation leave with the City of Galion, and declaring an emergency. City Manager Toy stated that Karen Shaw, Deputy Finance Director, came to us with prior service with other public agencies. Her vacation accrual will be determined from the date of August 25, 1995 after one year of service at Galion. This is what we have done in the past with other new employees. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-41 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 therefor, as provided by law, for the purchase and installation of a new telephone system at various city facilities; authorizing payment therefor, and declaring an emergency. City Manager Toy said that this has been part of the recovery plan for several years and is part of this year's budget. Our phones are 20 years old. We have trouble getting parts and most phones aren't compatible with one another. For example, you can't transfer a call from one phone to another and some phones do not have voice mail capabilities. Mr. Keib asked what various city facilities will get the new phones. City Manager Toy said that all departments with phones will be a part of the new phone system. Ms. George asked if cell phones were included in this. City Manager Toy said no, only our landlines. The total of the new phone system is not to exceed \$75,115.00. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried that this ordinance be passed. Dr. Fellner voting nay.

Ordinance No. 2010-42 entitled an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2009-86 (permanent 2010 appropriations) by increasing the appropriation in the Freese Construction/Capital Improvements Equipment account to twenty-eight thousand six hundred sixty-two dollars (\$28,662.00), and declaring an emergency. City Manager Toy stated that this is a NatureWorks Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Legislation was passed in February 2009 to apply for the grant. Since the grant has been approved, he explained that the increase in appropriation is to cover the cost of the project and then we will apply to the State for reimbursement. The amount in the account now is \$9,202.00. Mr. Keib commented that since his surgery he has been walking a lot as part of his recovery. He said that Ms. Clark and her group have done a wonderful job with East Park. Ms. Clark said she is concerned about how many people might actually use the fitness trail. Ms. George said that she thinks even older people will use it and can modify it to their abilities. Mr. Smith added that we already approved the grant and no taxpayer monies are being used to purchase the equipment. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. George and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Resolution No. 2010-7 entitled a resolution accepting the recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council for Crawford County regarding projects granted tax abatement within the City of Galion. City Manager Toy said that the TIRC met at the end of July. They make recommendations to each municipality concerning tax abatements and in turn we must respond within 60 days. He stated that the recommendations for our community were a continuation of previous recommendations for several local businesses. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Dr. Fellner, seconded by Ms. Clark and unanimously carried that this resolution be adopted.

Resolution No. 2010-8 entitled a resolution transferring the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) within the electric fund (605) from the other financing uses/cost of services account to the electrical supplies account. City Finance Director Audrey Brodzinski stated that this is for electric meter inventory. When they break we need to replace them. Inventory is getting low and we like to keep it up. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously carried that this resolution be adopted.

Resolution No. 2010-9 entitled a resolution transferring the sum of eleven thousand seven hundred eighty dollars (\$11,780.00) within the sewer fund (603) from the general governmental cost account to the water and sewer parts and supplies account. Ms. Brodzinski said that this is for meters for the Westmoor project. She explained that some homes don't have meters and we need to measure their well water usage to determine their sewer rates. We will purchase the meters and then sell to the customer when they sign on for sewer service. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously carried that this resolution be adopted.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

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

1. Ms. Brodzinski discussed the YTD Fund Summary Report dated July 31, 2010. She said that the water operating fund (601), the sewer operating fund (603), and the electric operating fund (605) are a little low in funds until the end of the summer when people get charged for using their air conditioners. As of July 31st total revenues were 60% received and 43% expended for all funds.

Mr. Keib asked what happens to money that gets turned back in at the end of the year by a department that doesn't spend its entire budget. He cited the Police Department and the Fire Department for doing just that. Police Chief Saterfield said that from 2005-2009 he turned \$1 million back into the general fund. Fire Chief Christini said from 2008-2009 he turned \$1.5 million back into the general fund. Mr. Keib asked where does the money go? Ms. Brodzinski responded that it depends on what the fund money was budgeted for. It may end up making up for lost revenue. When it goes back into the general fund it can be dispersed where needed. Mr. Keib said he doesn't believe there has been revenue lost. He said the general fund in 2008 had a balance of \$2.965 million and today the general fund has a balance of \$5.185 million which shows that the fund balance is increasing. Mr. Smith said that State Appointed Auditor Belinda Miller told them that the general fund will go down in the next few years. Mr. Keib stated that he wants a clear explanation on where the money goes when it's turned back in because we are talking lay-offs in those departments as well as the street department. We also need to know how the safety services levy is involved in the recovery plan. Police Officer Eric Bohach commented that he doesn't feel his department should be penalized because they spend below their budgeted amount every year. President Baldinger suggested that Belinda Miller come to a Council meeting and explain how the recovery plan works along with the general fund monies.

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

1. Ms. George said that they had a meeting tonight and discussed the fee schedule. City Inspector Matt Ross is still working on it.
2. She reported that Police Chief Saterfield, Fire Chief Christini and City Law Director Reese Mills are still working on updating and refining city codes that are the same as state codes. Mr. Mills said that he talked with the Walter Drane Company and found out that no other communities have tried to do this. Also, the initial cost would be huge to go through and change the books. He suggested that they update the books annually and the Police Chief can make decisions on whether to identify a city ordinance or Ohio Revised Code for certain offenses. Police Chief Saterfield reiterated that he makes decisions based on whether there is jail time involved or not.

3. Ms. George said that Fire Chief Christini is citing open burning complaints under the ORC and whether they are meeting EPA standards. The committee has decided not to change any city codes at this time.

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

1. Dr. Fellner said that Ms. Brodzinski and City Manager Toy are still working on the revision of the Utility Policy.
2. The public hearing for the zoning code change will be the subject for the next PZ&U Meeting scheduled for August 24th at 6:15 p.m.

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

1. Ms. Clark said they had to cancel the meeting last night due to prior commitments.
2. She said they are in the process of painting the skateboard park at East Park. Mr. Keib commented that he noticed less vandalism there. Ms. Clark said that there has been less vandalism noticed. She said that two girls were caught recently and the parents made them scrub the equipment and repaint where they vandalized. People do seem to take more pride since the park is becoming so nice.

COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Talbott, Clerk of Council, read a letter from the Director of the Celebration Singers and Orchestra inviting everyone to attend a presentation of Lest We Forget, a tribute to our civil servants and those who have and are serving in the military. The event will be held Saturday evening, September 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. RSVP is appreciated.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Toy said he attended a meeting with AMP-Ohio where they discussed the progress of specific plants. There are more meetings scheduled for next week.

The Maple Heights Storm Sewer Project is proceeding with 4 – 6 weeks left until completion of the project.

Taps and main lines should be completed by November for the Westmoor Project.

City Manager Toy said the OPWC Issue I paving project will be starting next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Salvati, 703 Grove Ave., said she attended the rally for the Police and Fire Departments. She is concerned about the expected lay-offs. President Baldinger said that the lay-offs are part of a five year recovery plan. The Finance Committee is doing everything they can to divert these lay-offs. He said he couldn't promise anything at this time. Mr. Keib and Ms. George both agreed that these lay-offs are not what we want to do at this time. President Baldinger added that the recovery plan can always be amended. It's not a done deal.

Eric Bohach, 301 Harding Way East, pointed out that the police and fire levy was to maintain current staffing. He was curious why one city council member would be in support of the Crawford County Sheriff's Office levy, but not support her own city's forces. He would like her to answer that, but she was absent from this meeting.

Steve Rowan, 1130 SR 61, submitted a petition to President Baldinger for public street lighting for SR 61 and SR 309. Mr. Rowan stated that the northeast annexation area was annexed into Galion on December 21, 2000 and the residents have yet to receive street lighting. Since the completion of US 30 traffic on those state routes have tripled. President Baldinger submitted the petition to Mr. Keib to put into the Finance Committee for further review.

Benjamin Mutti, representing Richland Community Family Coalition, submitted a packet to Council members describing the problem of sexually oriented businesses and their court-acknowledged secondary adverse effects. He asked that Council take time to review the information and consider passing an ordinance regulating criminal conduct in sexually oriented businesses. President Baldinger said they would review the packet and discuss in a committee meeting.

Richard Horning, 7674 SR 97, had questions concerning the Galion Airport Contract. City Manager Toy asked him to contact his office and we can schedule a time for us to sit down and discuss any concerns.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Gail Baldinger
Council President

Michelle Talbott
Clerk of Council