

**GALION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 23, 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. Smith. The following Council members were present: Ms. George, Dr. Fellner, Mrs. Wade, Ms. Clark, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Baldinger. Mr. Keib being absent, a motion was made by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. Smith to excuse his absence. Motion carried.

President Baldinger asked if there were any changes to the minutes dated March 9, 2010. There being no changes, a motion was made by Dr. Fellner and seconded by Ms. Clark that the minutes dated March 9, 2010 be approved as written. Motion carried.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance No. 2010-13 entitled an ordinance releasing utility easements from the east half of the vacated portion of the east Railroad Street right-of-way west of Washington Street and adjacent to inlots 157, 158 and 159, and declaring an emergency. Acting City Manager Toy said that this releases utility easements only. He said that Ralph Chamberlin, the property owner, requested this because he wants to expand his business. The right-of-way has been vacated since 1992. Acting City Manager Toy explained that the ordinance is an emergency because of the lengthy process concerning codes and procedures, and therefore, he didn't feel this needed extra readings. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Dr. Fellner and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-14 entitled an ordinance to adopt current replacement pages to the codified ordinances and declaring an emergency. Acting City Manager Toy explained that this is standard procedure. It takes the legislation that Council voted on in the last year and includes it in the Codified Ordinances. Also, included are amendments to conform with current State law as required by the Ohio Constitution. This includes traffic codes and general offenses. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Ms. George and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-15 entitled an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a real estate purchase contract for the purchase of the property known as 347 W. Atwood Street, Galion, Ohio, and declaring an emergency. Acting City Manager Toy stated that a tax foreclosure sale is scheduled for March 26th with the bid opening amount of \$24,900.00. If no other bids appear, the City would like to purchase the property for that amount and demolish it. The funds for the purchase and demolition will come from Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds (NSP). Dale Hartle, President of the Ohio Regional Development Corporation, explained to Council the guidelines used for the NSP. He said the property can be used for redevelopment for residential housing, a City park, be deeded to a non-profit organization for redevelopment for residential housing, or the land could be banked and the final determination could be made within 10 years. All options need to follow NSP guidelines. Funds would be provided to the City through Morrow County since they are the lead entity for our region, which is Region 8 for NSP 1 funding. Mr. Hartle estimates the total for the project at \$117,000. Joe Devaney, CHIP program administrator, stated that the area is also a target area for the CHIP grant, so more funds could be applied in that area. Mrs. Wade asked how the demolish contractor is chosen. Mr. Hartle said that the project would go out for bid and the demolish contractor would have to be certified in handling asbestos and other hazardous materials. Bob Cerar, Atwood Street resident, thanked Council for staying on top of this and seeing it through. Mr. Hartle said he firmly believes this neighborhood can be saved. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

Ordinance No. 2010-16 entitled an ordinance authorizing and directing the President of Council on behalf of the City of Galion to enter into an agreement with Lisa Thomas to serve as City Manager of the City of Galion, Ohio, and declaring an emergency. President Baldinger introduced Dr. Lisa Thomas to Council and those in attendance. Dr. Fellner commented that he is looking forward to working with her and thanked Mr. Toy for all his hard work as Acting City Manager. Judy Gibson, Galion resident, thanked Council for their effort in choosing a new City Manager. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. George and unanimously carried that this ordinance be passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Acting City Manager Toy briefly discussed the search for a new City Finance Director. He said they received 14 resumes and interviewed 4 applicants. Those involved were himself, Jim Graff, Police Chief Brian Saterfield, and State Appointed Auditor Belinda Miller played a passive role in the decision. It was unanimous that they recommend Audrey Brodzinski as the new City Finance Director to start Monday, March 29th. Her previous experience includes the position of Finance Director of Grandview Heights. A motion was made by Dr. Fellner and seconded by Mr. Smith that Council accept the recommendation of Acting City Manager Toy to hire Audrey Brodzinski for the position of City Finance Director. The motion was passed by the following votes: Mrs. Wade – yea, Mr. Smith – yea, Ms. Clark – yea, Ms. George – yea, Dr. Fellner – yea, and Mr. Baldinger – yea.

Ms. George stated that the Galion Tree Commission has asked that Council honor the fourth graders who submit pictures with their trees during the second Council meeting in April because it is closer to Arbor Day. Council members agreed.

ACTING CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Acting City Manager Toy announced that the Taylor Road compost facility was opened last weekend. They received 260 cubic yards of compost which results in a slow weekend. It will remain open for the season on the third Saturday of each month and the Friday before.

Acting City Manager Toy stated that he will be attending a meeting in Shelby for Igniting Ohio's Economic Engine. It will focus on Ohio's development and economic growth and is sponsored by ODOT.

Acting City Manager Toy said he was contacted by an engineering company who specialized in replacing some traditional energy sources with solar energy. They are doing some research for the City, but this is in a very preliminary stage.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

President Baldinger commented that the City Manager selection was a very lengthy process. He thanked Joe Kleinknecht and other members of the Chamber, City Council, Jim Graff, Belinda Miller, and Police Chief Saterfield for their participation and help in the search. He feels they made a good decision.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Willis, 359 Tidd Dr., was going to speak on the Pine Street parking issue, but some others didn't show up to discuss. Police Chief Saterfield said to see him after the meeting to discuss. He said that this needs resolved and he has further information concerning the matter. President Baldinger said that if anyone else wants to be involved in the resolution of the Pine Street parking matter to meet with Chief Saterfield after the meeting.

Dr. Fellner asked if Dr. Lisa Thomas would like to make any comments. Dr. Thomas stated that everyone has been really terrific and she is honored to be chosen as the new City Manager. She said she drove through town and noticed how pretty it is. She feels she will bring a little bit of toughness to the table with a lot of spirit in a non-partisan manner. She said she is looking forward to beginning her new position.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Gail Baldinger
Council President

Michelle Talbott
Clerk of Council

