

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY AUGUST 24, 2015 7:00 P.M.

All Members Present

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

Invocation was given by Albert Rich

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stiffey welcomed special guests Albert Rich and Magistrate Rex McWhorter.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (July 27, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report (July 2015)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to accept the Treasurers Reports as read and was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

Administrative Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that he and Chief Vance have installed an outside drop box on the front of the municipal building. This will allow persons to drop off tax payments and payments for citations after normal business hours.

Mayor Stiffey stated that Clerk Brewer will be on vacation the first part of September. He asked that if anyone would like to volunteer their time to answer phones and help out around the office in her absence that they please contact him.

At this time he stated that he had been told that there is going to be a new walking path installed at Ed Spear Park and differed to Magistrate McWhorter.

Magistrate McWhorter stated that Chris Coomer will be starting on the project shortly and it may be finished in about one (1) month.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the County Road Department did come through last week and spray the city for mosquitos. He stated they spent about two (2) hours driving the streets and alleys to make sure everything was covered. Many citizens of the city stated their appreciation for this being done.

Magistrate McWhorter informed all present that the chemical used costs three thousand three hundred dollars (\$3,300) for a fifty five (55) gallon drum but that it is very effective.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Stidham reported that she had spoken to Scotty's in regards to what the price difference would be if they did not widen Hedge Street. She was told that the cost would be a little cheaper but not significant. In her opinion it is best to go with their original bid and to widen Hedge Street.

Commissioner Stidham stated that all the street signs are back up and all the street lights are working properly.

At this time Buddy Marr informed her that the North Main Street sign at the corner of Sixth and Main is missing. He stated that he believed that this might have been caused by some WKU students but he had no proof of it.

Commissioner Stidham reported that everything is moving along well for the Smiths Grove Days Festival. So far there have been 15 booths rented for the day. She feels that people are waiting to see what the weather is going to be like before they send in their applications and payment. She has been in contact with Johnny and David Tarter who purchased the old PNC bank building and they have agreed to let the city use their lot and electricity for the event. Also, Carroll Browning was contacted about the lot beside the Post Office and has said the city can use that lot anytime they want for a city function. Also, she has been in contact with WKU Mobile Health and they are going to come to City Hall for the festival and will be giving free flu shots and BP checks. There is no age limit as to who can receive the free services.

Magistrate McWhorter stated that Bowling Green is having their Craft Fair on September 19th and that Brittany Young has a contact list for all of the vendors participating in the event. He suggested that Commissioner Stidham contact her; Commissioner Stidham stated that she already had.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he thought that the State was doing a great job on the curves on Main Street and Hedge Street, with the new signage put up by the state.

Mayor Stiffey also reported that Brian Gaul had completed spraying the street curbs and walks.

Commissioner Stidham said that she would like to thank Mayor Stiffey for cutting back the branch that was covering the stop sign in Jackson Manor.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that it looked like Chief Vance was doing a great job on notifying people about the parking. At this time he differed to Chief Vance for additional information.

Chief Vance reported that the new radios have been installed in each of the cruisers and are operational, and that one hundred percent (100%) of the Code and Ordinance Violations have been collected.

He also stated that last week he rode with Bowling Green Code Enforcement to see how they handled things and that there isn't much difference in the way they do things and how we do things. Also, he, Mayor Stiffey, and Commissioner Vincent attended a Code Enforcement meeting in Bowling Green last week and it was very informative. They discussed a piece of property that Bowling Green has had a problem with for over a year and how they were able to resolve the problem.

Chief Vance stated that at this time he would like to address the Commission on the idea of purchasing a new police vehicle. He stated that right now both cruisers are in good shape but that the 2008 is about to reach ninety thousand (90,000) miles and once it does there will be more maintenance items/charges to attend to.

Right now the City has over twenty eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) in the Vehicle Replacement fund and he would like for the city to consider purchasing an all-wheel drive SUV. If the weather is as bad this year as it was last year a Crown Victoria will not be able to get out and do patrol or anything else. He does have a quote on the cost of a new vehicle.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he thought this needed to be put on the agenda for next month, and more research should be done on the matter.

Mayor Stiffey stated he thought the Commission should decide if they wanted to explore the idea of purchasing or not.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Cannon stated that Brian Gaul is still doing a good job with keeping our cemetery looking good and we were able to skip one week of mowing due to the weather.

At this time Mayor Stiffey stated that he and Brian Gaul have pruned back some of the trees out at the cemetery and removed some of the low hanging branches.

He also reported that Brian Gaul has sprayed the alley ways and the roads in the cemetery for weeds.

At this time Clerk Brewer asked him if he had an idea as to how many of the trees out at the cemetery were dead and he stated there were about 12 that did not make it. The Mayor stated that last winter was just too hard on the newly planted trees and that Brian Gaul thinks that the sap may have frozen causing them to die.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent reported that he felt the city was slowly making progress and that word was getting out to all citizens. He stated that he would like to thank Chief Vance, Clerk Brewer, and all involved for their help. He feels that the biggest problem is with absentee owners and getting them to take care of the upkeep of their properties.

At this time Mayor Stiffey reported that the property behind the car wash has been cut for hay. At first there was some question as to if the County owned the property or if someone else owned it and they were informed that the County did not own the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Committee

Jessie Varner was unable to attend the meeting but had his wife Diana report on his behalf. She reported that the Barren River Aging Council met on Wednesday August 12th, 2015 at the BRADD Conference Center in Bowling Green. Terryn Varney gave a brief presentation on Roberts Rules of Order, BRADD/AAAIL Director of Aging Services Michelle Hines presented the 2016 Programs and Services report, Daniel Curry reported that the Healthy Aging Expo will be held on September 2nd at Living Hope and the Auburn Senior Center will hold a health fair on Sept 22nd from 9am – 12pm.

Also, Aecia Johnson, BRADD/AAAIL Aging Planner, stated that the Grandparent Program is currently accepting applications; the local Barren River Elder Abuse Council received an incentive award for one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) from the State Elder Abuse Prevention Council, and that current FY 2015 Aging Contracts have been extended to September 30th, 2015 until a decision is made on whether subcontractors will be affected by the Governor's Executive Order to increase state worker's minimum wage.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Lien for 150 W. Third

Attorney Milliken reported that the property will be on the Master Commissioners Auction for September 23, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 15-004 230.10 An Ordinance Assessing and Levying the 2016 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft having a Situs in the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky.

Mayor Stiffey explained that this tax rate has not changed in years and that the city does not collect these taxes, they are collected by the county. At this time the Mayor read the Ordinance in its entirety.

A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to accept Ordinance Number 15-004 230.10 as read and was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 15-005 230.00 An Ordinance Assessing and Levying the 2015 Annual Property Tax on Real Property and Tangible Personal Property within the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky.

Mayor Stiffey explained that this week we received our figures from PVA and will be able to get our required two (2) readings and votes before October without having to have a special meeting.

At this time Mayor Stiffey read the Ordinance in its entirety.

A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to accept Ordinance Number 15-005 230.00 as written and was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

Bids for trimming and removing trees at old City Hall Building

Mayor Stiffey stated that the trees at the old City Hall building have been neglected for years and have become overgrown. Some of the trees are even growing to where they are pushing into the building and others are hollow or rotten and they need to be removed. Also, some of them are growing into/through the fence and are probably the only things holding the fence up.

Mayor Stiffey has been in contact with several tree companies and was able to get three quotes. They are as follows:

Sanders Tree Service

Removal of six (6) trees	\$800.00
Prune two (2) trees (Maple) out by street	\$175.00
Remove all vines from building	\$125.00
Remove all wooden fence and haul off	\$300.00
Grind all stumps	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total	\$1,700.00
Take down of additional tree	<u>\$900.00</u>
Final Total Job Cost	\$2,600.00

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Hales Tree Service

Hourly rate for five (5) workers \$250/hour or \$2,200 per day and expects that it will take two (2) days.

Total **\$4,400.00**

Gill's Tree Service

Remove Holly tree, remove three trees in side yard,
remove Dogwood, remove trees on back side of fence,
and remove vines from building **\$1,200.00**

Remove bad tree in front yard **\$900.00**
Grind stumps **\$350.00**
Remove fence **\$400.00**
Total **\$2,850.00**

Commissioner Vincent stated that he thought the city should go with Sanders Tree Service because they had the best bid and they have done good work for the city in the past.

Commissioner Stiffey stated that Mayor Stiffey works for Sanders but that it had no bearing one way or the other on the bid they gave the city.

Mayor Stiffey stated that if it was a problem that he worked for Sanders he guessed he would just have to donate his time to the job.

Buddy Marr stated that he didn't want it to appear that there was a conflict of interest due to the fact Mayor Stiffey worked for Sanders and addressed the question to Attorney Milliken.

Attorney Milliken stated that he did not believe that there was a problem with the fact Mayor Stiffey worked for Sanders but that he did not believe that Mayor Stiffey should vote on the matter.

Commissioner Vincent suggested that if it was a conflict of interest that Mayor Stiffey just not participates in any of the work Sanders may do in Smiths Grove.

Buddy Marr stated that he felt that the fact that the matter has been discussed, and that Mayor Stiffey has made it known that he works for Sanders that the Mayor has fulfilled his duty and this should deflect any conflict of interest.

Diane Stiffey stated that she did not think that it was fair to David or Tim if David is not allowed to work in Smiths Grove.

Commissioner Stidham stated that she wanted to make sure they were comparing apples to apples with the bid from Gill's & Sander's.

Attorney Milliken stated that he did not see a problem with Mayor Stiffey doing work for Sander's in Smiths Grove.

At this time Mayor Stiffey asked the Commission if they wanted to proceed with the cutting down of the trees or not.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stiffey to accept the bid from Sander's Tree Service and allow them to do the work for the cost of two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Roll Was called, Commissioner Stiffey – Yes, Commissioner Stidham – Yes, Commissioner Vincent – Yes, Commissioner Cannon – Yes, Mayor Stiffey – Abstain so the motion passed.

Walk in item

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated that due to his declining health he felt that it was in the best interest of the city that he resigns his position effective after tonight's meeting. However, he would like to ask that the Commission allow his wife Martha to fulfill his term for him.

It was asked of Attorney Milliken if there was a problem with this to which he replied he did not think so.

There will be a Special Called Meeting Thursday night August 27th at 5:30 to appoint Martha Stiffey as Commissioner in Lawrence Stiffey's place.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Stiffey made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members so the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

APPROVED _____
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE _____
Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk