

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Commissioner Stiffey, Commissioner Stidham, Commissioner Vincent, & Mayor Stiffey

Members Absent: Commissioner Cannon

Also Absent: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Invocation was led by Mr. Earl Coker

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Special Guests – Mayor Stiffey recognized special guest Steve Hunter from Warren County Planning & Zoning, Magistrate Rex McWhorter, and past Commissioner Jessie Varner.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (February 23, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

Minutes of Special Called Meeting (February 27, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

Minutes of Special Called Meeting (March 3, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (February, 2015)

A motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to approve the Treasurers report and was seconded by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Administrative Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that we have changed our phone service and internet from Windstream to Time Warner.

He also reported that we have gone from doing a monthly pest control at City Hall to a quarterly plan. This also includes the old City Hall building which we were having done yearly for insurance purposes. Also, the cemetery chapel will be sprayed twice a year.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Teresa Stidham reported that there are two (2) street lights out, one on Third and one on Laurel by Billy Webb's house, and she is going to report them to Warren Rural Electric to be repaired.

She stated that once again she feels there is a need for a street light on Ridgecrest. She also believes there should be one put up at the entrance to Webb Ave. The only street light on that street is at the opposite end. She has been informed that it would cost about five hundred dollars (\$500) per pole to install.

Mrs. Rosemary Legge stated that there is no street light on Sunset Avenue by the Post Office and she would like to see one placed close to the Rail Road.

Commissioner Stidham stated that no work has been done on the street signs at this time due to the weather. However, Commissioner Cannon will soon be able to start working on them since the weather is improving. She hopes they will have them completed in about a month.

Mayor Stiffey stated that there has been a small amount of rock applied to the alley's since the last meeting but that more will be needed.

Mr. Buddy Marr asked if a study could be done to replace all old street lights in the city with the new ones. For instance how much light does each type give off and what is the cost to run each.

Steve Hunter stated that Planning & Zoning has the specs for WRECC and can get those to Commissioner Stidham.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated he had nothing to report at this time other than our new Chief Johnny Vance was in attendance.

Mayor Stiffey reported that we have gotten new cell phones for the police department and with the way the new contract is written we will be saving about sixty three dollars (\$63) per month.

Cemetery Report

In Commissioner Cannon's absence Mayor Stiffey reported that Brian Gaul has continued his contracts with the city and there will be no changes to the contracts.

Mayor Stiffey also stated he thinks Mr. Gaul will start mowing next week to have the cemetery ready for Easter weekend.

Mrs. Diana Varner inquired as to if Mr. Gaul was responsible for mowing, cutting back the crape myrtle and the garbage by the car wash. Mayor Stiffey replied that Mr. Gaul was only responsible for the mowing. He himself has cut the crape myrtle and cleaned out the garbage in the past.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent stated that he had hoped that Attorney Milliken would have been here with an Ordinance drawn up but since he is tied up in Louisville he supposes it will have to wait until next meeting. At this point it will probably be the middle of the year before any action can be taken.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the trees and stumps on Mill street have now been removed. Also, for the past couple of years Larry Shobe has been mowing the property on 150 Third Street and only charging the city about one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) a month to do so. Since we hope to get this property sold at Master Commissioners Auction soon he has asked Mr. Shobe to continue to mow until sold.

Committee Reports

Aging Committee

Mr. Jessie Varner reported that at this time of year the Aging Committee is trying to get information together in order to seek funding. This year their funding has been cut by about one percent (1%).

He also reported that the month of May is Older Americans Month. If anyone knows of a citizen that is one hundred (100) years old or older they need to let the Aging Committee know because they honor them with a plaque and a certificate.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Chief Position

Johnny Vance has accepted the position of Chief of Police and will be starting on April 6, 2015

Status of Ordinance to terminate Interlocal Agreement with Warren County on Code Enforcement

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to table the Ordinance to terminate the Interlocal Agreement with Warren County until Attorney Milliken is able to be at the meeting. The motion was seconded by commissioner Stiffey. Discussion was called for.

Mr. Hunter stated that if the city is planning on taking back the Code Enforcement they need to check the Warren County Zoning Ordinance because it has to be included.

With there being no further discussion roll was called for. Ayes all members present so the item was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 15-001 820.00 An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Incorporated Areas of Smiths Grove, Commonwealth of Kentucky (Text Amendment of Articles 2-8)

At this time Mayor Stiffey introduced Steve Hunter and turned the floor over to him.

Mr. Hunter reported that the Warren County Planning & Zoning was adopted in 2001 and then codified.

Mr. Hunter reported that a lot of the Text Amendment does not relate to Smiths Grove. It is mainly what is considered “housekeeping”. It covers revised structure of the Historic Preservation Board, revisions to various Overlay District Procedures, Development Standards for apartments, maintenance, campaign signs, several Overlay Standards for various PC Boards, and a dog leash law for subdivisions in the county.

The City of Smiths Grove already has an ordinance regarding Campaign Signs, which is the example the County used with a few changes, so there is no need for a change to our Ordinance.

Mr. Hunter stated that Bowling Green has already had one reading on their Ordinance and Warren County has had two readings. He must get all twelve readings before completed. He realizes that the residents of Smiths Grove do not get much for their one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) they pay a year but he is willing to help out in any way he can. Their biggest job is subdivision construction and unfortunately we do not have much of that.

At this time Commissioner Vincent made a motion to table this item until the next meeting so everyone will have a chance to look over the Ordinance. The motion was second by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0 and the item was tabled until next month.

Sign for messages out in front of City Hall building

Mayor Stiffey reported that at one of the last meetings Mrs. Legge and some other residents requested a sign for out front of the City Hall building announcing the meeting nights. Something like a yard sign. Mayor Stiffey stated he felt that if we were going to do a sign it should be something more permanent where we could also display other things going on in the community, such as flu shots.

Commissioner Stidham suggested something like a church sign that could be changed out and was lighted at night.

Mr. Steve Hunter stated the city would have no problems with such a sign. The requirements is that it be no higher than twenty (20) feet and no more than one hundred (100) square feet wide, and if a monument type must be twenty (20) feet from the edge of the pavement.

Commissioner Vincent stated that the sign at the Methodist church is ten (10) feet by four (4) feet and it ran the church about four thousand, five hundred dollars (\$4,500).

Mayor Stiffey stated he felt it would be money well spent.

Commissioner Stidham reported that her church had recently put one up where you could change the letters and it was lit by flood lights and it only cost them around two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

Commissioner Vincent stated he felt it was a good idea but does not feel the commission is ready to act upon the recommendation at this time.

Mr. Steve Hunter suggested that the city contact Wacky Signs or Signature Signs because some time they have some good used ones for sale.

At this time Mayor Stiffey made a motion to start researching the type, cost, and to get estimates on used signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Action to re-coop money from Earl Bishop for work not completed

Mayor Stiffey stated that this is an item that the city needed Attorney Milliken present for.

Commissioner Vincent asked if the city had a contract with Mr. Bishop to do the work and was informed that it was only a verbal agreement that was voted on by the commission at the time. He stated that Attorney Milliken had already informed the Commission that there was probably not much that could be done but he could send Mr. Bishop a letter if the Commission wanted him to.

At this time Commissioner Vincent made a motion to have Attorney Milliken compose a letter and send to Mr. Bishop and see what resulted from the letter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Curb to deflect water at 108 S. Main (old City Hall building)

Mayor Stiffey started out by explaining that the old City Hall building is below street level therefore causing problems for the tenant, Mr. Brewer, every time it rains or the snow thaws. Water enters into the building where the overhead doors are located causing damage to merchandise and equipment belonging to Mr. Brewer. Mayor Stiffey would like to have a curb constructed outside of the doors to deflect the water away from the building leaving the entry still useable in the future.

Mr. Brewer stated that there are currently drains on First Street and Main Street that the water travels towards. By creating a curb it would not change the normal progression of the water. It would continue down First Street along its normal route but would be deflected away from the building and no longer able to enter through the doors.

Commissioner Vincent stated he would like to see if the city could get the County Engineer to come look at the problem to make sure the water would not be going onto someone else's property.

At this time Mayor Stiffey made a motion that Commissioner Vincent contact the County Engineer and; if they said it would be okay to construct the curb the city go ahead and proceed to get bids to do the job. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Set date and time in April for 2015 -2016 Budget work session/Special Meeting

Mayor Stiffey stated that the Commission needed to get this done as soon as possible in April because there has to be two readings on it and it has to be published in the newspaper by June 30th.

Commissioner Stidham stated she would not be able to make any meeting earlier than 5:30 because she does not get off of work until 5:00.

It was agreed upon by all members present that the work session would be held on April 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Stiffey reported that at this time he would like to discuss an item that was not on the agenda but needed to be addressed, a new copier for City Hall.

Back in 2011 we had to purchase a new copier because the old Cannon copier that we had was obsolete and no parts could be found for it. At the time the city purchased a desk top printer for around five hundred dollars (\$500). The city was misinformed at the time by Better Quality Business Systems as to what exactly copier would do and the company has not stood by their product. Also, the copier seems to have reached its life span because it has several problems.

Mayor Stiffey would like to consider getting a commercial copier, like we used to have, to replace the current copier. He has been in contact with several companies but has found a good used one from the Lang Company for two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) that should last us for several years to come. All the new machines he has gotten prices on run between four thousand (\$4,000) and five thousand (\$5,000) dollars.

At this time Steve Hunter stated that Planning & Zoning have a black and white copier that they want to get rid of and he believed they could just turn over to the city. However, the city would have to pay the Lang Company to disassemble, deliver, and re-assemble the unit. He also thought that the Lang Company may even still supply a service contract on it if the city wanted one.

A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to explore this option, to talk to the Lang Company, and if this was the best route to acquire this copier. If this is not the best option then the city would purchase the other copier for twenty five hundred (\$2,500) dollars. The motion was second by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Commissioner Stiffey said he would like to take a moment to address the calls that have been received regarding foxes in town. He has seen them personally because they play on the Rail Road tracks behind his house. They do not seem to be rabid or dangerous in any way other than they may try to eat your cat or dog food. He has been in contact with the Department of Fish & Wildlife and they do not recommend trying to do anything unless they become rabid. If these were rabid they would be dead by now because animals die from rabies within ten (10) days after contracting the disease. If they pose a problem to anyone there is a form on the Fish & Wildlife website you can fill out and they will come and trap them.

Once again Mrs. Shirley Martin said she would like to thank Mayor Stiffey, Commissioner Cannon and others for cleaning the snow off of the roads. She also stated that she thought the city should pay for their gas and the use of their equipment for doing so and maybe put it in the budget for next year to pay them as well.

Commissioner Stiffey stated that he would like to thank Magistrate Rex McWhorter because the County came out and helped clear the streets as well.

Magistrate McWhorter stated that it is Jerry Young that should be thanked.

Mr. Buddy Marr stated that he thought the city should reimburse the Mayor and Commissioner Cannon for fuel and the rental of their equipment.

With there being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Stiffey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members so the motion passed 4 – 0 and Mayor Stiffey adjourned the meeting 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