

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

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Stiffey

Also Absent: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Invocation was given by Earl Coker
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (October 26, 2015)
Minutes of Special Called Meeting November 10, 2015

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report (October, 2015)

A motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to accept the Treasurers Reports as read and was seconded by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members so the motion passed 4 – 0.

Administrative Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that Commissioner Stiffey was not feeling well and therefore unable to attend tonight's meeting.

He also stated that he would like to thank everyone that came out Saturday and helped put up all of the Christmas decorations and those who came to the tree lighting tonight.

Mayor Stiffey reported that Charlie Welch with Republic Services was in the office the end of October to resign the franchise contract. There are no changes to the contract, including the cost of the service; this was just the annual signing of the contract.

Mayor Stiffey informed all present that a sign has now been purchased to put out and let residents know about meetings and such.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Stidham reported that she has spoken to Greg Meredith with the State Transportation Department in regards to the stop light that Commissioner Vincent had requested at Jim Burrell & 101/Main Street and was told that it was not favorable due to the I65 intersections. However, they did put up more signs in regards to the turning lane.

Commissioner Stidham stated that she had spoken to Dennis at Scotty's in regards to the dip/manhole on Hedge Street and they have corrected the problem. Also, she would like to put it in the budget next year to widen the curve at First & Hedge Streets.

Mayor Stiffey reported that he had looked at the street light on Sunset and the pole is not tall enough to accommodate a street light. This will be an issue for WRECC because the pole will have to be changed out in order to accommodate a street light. This item will be tabled at this time.

Mrs. Rosemary Legge stated that the complaint is that there isn't a street light on that street except by the Post Office.

At this time Commissioner Stidham stated she would like to open the floor to Magistrate Rex McWhorter in regards to the Vincent Street matter Deon Benson & Roger Thomas had asked about.

Magistrate McWhorter stated that he and Commissioner Vincent are going to take a look at after the meeting and he will see if there is anything he can do to help.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

In Commissioner Stiffey's absence, Mayor Stiffey said he would defer to Chief Vance.

Chief Vance reported that the new police vehicle will be here either mid-December or the first of January.

Chief Vance reported that he would like to start working on hiring a Part-Time Police Officer and just see if there was anyone interested in the position. Commissioner Stidham stated she thought the Commission should decide if they were going to hire a part-time officer or not first; otherwise it would be a complete waste of the applicant's time.

Mayor Stiffey asked if Clerk Brewer would have some figures on how we stood on the budget at our next meeting. That will be the six (6) month mark and would give an idea as to where we stand financially.

Commissioner Vincent asked how many hours a week this part-time officer would work to which Chief Vance answered sixteen (16). However, the person would need to be able to cover in Chief Vance's absence if needed. Also, they will have to already be certified.

Commissioner Vincent recommended that Chief Vance set down with the Commission and write a job description, salary, and expectations for the position. Also, he would like to know how much in Payroll Taxes it will cost the city.

Mayor Stiffey stated that in November Chief Vance had a pursuit that could have turned out to where the Chief would have had to defend himself against the perpetrator. The city needs to have a plan in place because if this were to ever happen the Chief would have to be put on Administrative leave until investigation complete, and the city would need someone to cover at that time.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Cannon asked if there had been anymore contact with Mr. Bishop or was the job completed. Mayor Stiffey and Clerk Brewer both stated the job was not complete. Commissioner Cannon stated that he believes that the city may need to have another letter sent to Mr. Bishop.

Mayor Stiffey reported that he did a comparison on how many mowing's there were last year and this year and it was twenty five (25) each year.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent reported that there is one (1) violation that he and Chief Vance have been working on for several months now. The resident had asked them to give him some time and was cleaning up a little at a time however; he has now stopped cleaning up totally. Commissioner Vincent thinks the city should give until the first of next year to clean up and if it is not then he should be re-cited. He also asked that anyone with a complaint come in to City Hall and fill out the paperwork because that is how these complaints are driven.

Commissioner Cannon asked if the new owner of the house at 150 Third Street was going to start cleaning up that property soon. Mayor Stiffey stated he had spoken to the new owners and they are waiting for the weather to get cooler due to varmints on the property. He will follow up with the new owners soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Committee

The next Aging Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 10am at the BRADD office.

Christmas Parade

Mayor Stiffey reported that the committee had its final meeting and everything is scheduled to happen on December 4th at 6:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Closing of inactive alleys in the city of Smiths Grove and the naming of alleys to be left open

Mayor Stiffey had asked Tonya Collins with Planning & Zoning to do some research on what alleys were showing in the city limits and her research is what this information is based on. Mayor Stiffey stated that the reason for closing these alleys is that if they are closed the city does not have to maintain them. The alleys are mainly inactive and do have access from other points. The procedure for closing these alleys would be that the city has consent form each landowner by way of a signed and notarized letter. If a land owner does not agree then it will have to go before a judge to rule on. Due to the fact no action can be taken at this time he believes the matter should be tabled until a further date.

Mayor Stiffey stated that one of the alleys in question runs from Sixth Street, beside Maybell Bybee's property, and stops at the corner of the cemetery and his property. However; it does dead end at that corner.

Commissioner Vincent stated that the only way to get out of that alley is to back out however; someone has been pulling into the cemetery property and is cutting deep ruts going up to the dumpster area. The problem with this is that we have been told there are graves of Civil War Soldiers in that area. There have been some experts out there who have "witched" the area and have found seven (7) bodies in the area.

At this time Mayor Stiffey asked Fred Wurst to report what he found and how he determined there were bodies there.

Mr. Wurst stated that he has used copper wires to locate graves for years and has been able to locate graves that date back to 1876. This technique is 98% successful and the only way to be 100% sure would be to dig up the graves.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to table the procedure to close any alleys and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Ayes all members present so the motion passed.

Mr. Albert Rich stated that he knew a lady, Linda Dickerson, who is associated with a committee that studies Warren County cemeteries and she may be able to help.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Order 01-06-15.00

A Municipal Order to appoint Dr. J. Earl Coker as Voluntary Chaplin and Information Officer for the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky

Mayor Stiffey read the Municipal Order and made a motion to have the commission vote to appoint Dr. Coker to this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members present so the motion passed.

Approval of bid to purchase and install new emergency equipment in/on new cruiser

Mayor Stiffey reported that the bid we have is from Burks Auto & Towing in Glasgow who will order all the needed items and install. At this time he differed to Chief Vance for more information.

Chief Vance stated that there are very few items in 702 that will switch over to the new vehicle such as the lights, cage, screen behind the back seat, and the console for the radios. He had dealings with Burks Auto when he worked at WKU and they do good work. Since they are a dealer they get better prices on the equipment as well.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he had called Galls and checked on what our cost would be on some of the items and just for the light bar Burks was about six hundred dollars (\$600) cheaper.

Commissioner Vincent asked if Mayor Stiffey recommended Burks to which the Mayor replied "yes".

Mayor Stiffey reported that the total cost for the items needed and installation would be five thousand forty dollars and fifty cents (\$5,040.50).

Commissioner Vincent stated that the commission needed to make a decision because he was sure the items would need to be ordered for when the new vehicle came in. He asked Chief Vance if he thought this was a good price or not. Chief Vance stated he did believe it was because Burks is a dealer but he doesn't jack up the prices to his customers.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he did not feel the commission had a choice but to approve and made a motion to accept the bid from Burks Auto & Towing for five thousand forty dollars and fifty cents (\$5,040.50). The motion was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed.

Discussion on having all Recycle and Trash services on North Main Street picked up in the alley behind residences

Commissioner Cannon stated that there are several residents on North Main Street whose garbage is picked up on Main Street and the trash bins are left there the rest of the week. Some of them block the sidewalks. He would like to see these bins pick up in the alley instead of on Main Street. Most of the other residents on Main Street have their garbage picked up in the alley and he does not see why everyone's couldn't be.

Mayor Stiffey asked if Commissioner Cannon would contact the residents this would involve. Commissioner Cannon stated he thought it would be better for Republic to contact them and notify them of this procedure.

Mrs. Rosemary Legge asked if there was any more information as to when there would be a new Recycle Bin put at Ed Spear Park. Magistrate Rex McWhorter informed that he is working on the matter.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED _____

DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST

DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE

Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk