

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 7:00 P.M.**

All Members Present

Absent: City Attorney Wes Milliken

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

Mayor Stiffey welcomed special guests with the local Lion's Club.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (August 24, 2015)  
Special Called Meeting (August 27, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

**REPORTS**

Treasurers Report (August 2015)

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

**Administrative Report**

Mayor Stiffey reported that the parking lot here at the Municipal Building has been sealed and re-stripped. Fortunately the job was completed the weekend before the grand opening of the new Bank of Edmonson County.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the Community Walk for the students at North Warren will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is an annual event that is held by the school to acquaint the students with the local businesses and operations of local government. The city has purchased, at a minimal cost, some items to hand out to the students during their visit to City Hall. Also, North Warren is having a reading program this year and has asked that the city participate by awarding the students and we have purchased some items for that as well.

Mayor Stiffey received a call earlier this afternoon from Attorney Milliken stating he would not be in attendance tonight due to a family member in the hospital.

Magistrate Res McWhorter was unable to attend tonight but, Mayor Stiffey did talk to him this week and the new walking path at Ed Spear Park should be completed this week.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Stidham reported that the street signs for Sixth Street and North main have been ordered and that she does not know of any street lights that are out at this time.

Commissioner Stidham stated that she had been contacted by two citizens in regards to the paving of the “alley” by Commissioner Vincent’s house. Both citizens stated that if the “alley” was paved by Commissioner Vincent’s house that the city should totally complete the alley by putting rock on it and paving the other end as well.

Commissioner Stidham stated that this is was not in the budget for this year, and she was not sure this was an alley because it is not on PVA maps or named. Chief Vance stated that he agreed with her because the sidewalks were not set up as an alley.

Commissioner Vincent stated that during Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey’s prior term he was aware of this matter and said he would take care of it this year. However, in order to deter any conflict he has presented Clerk Brewer with a check for five hundred dollars (\$500) to cover the cost of having the area by his house paved and he would prefer it stay closed.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the PVA does not show as an alley at this time. It may have been in the past and is something that needs to be checked out further. He will contact Planning and Zoning and have them research.

Commissioner Stidham stated that she just doesn’t want to be accused of doing anything wrong.

At this time Commissioner Vincent stated that he felt there is a problem with all the golf carts on the streets of Smiths Grove.

Chief Vance stated that back in 2006 or 2007 when gas prices were so high, legislators stated that cities need to allow golf carts, scooters, and motor cycles under 50cc to be used on streets. However, if the commission did not want to allow they could do an ordinance against.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the right-of-way trimming has been completed. They covered about two thirds (2/3) of the city and the rest will have to be looked at next year. Also, the paving of Hedge Street had been rebid and the cost was lowered. For the difference he is having the intersection of Laurel and Main repaired correctly and the city will still save three hundred dollars (\$300).

At this time Mayor Stiffey recognized guest and Lion’s Club Member Deon Benson.

Mr. Benson stated that he was requesting on behalf of Benson & Benson Family Dental, and Roger Thomas of Thomas Veterinary that the city contact the county this year in regards to snow removal on Vincent Street. Last year they both had to pay to have their area cleared because the county picks up their blade at Flavor-Rich and does not drop it again until they reach Main.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he believed that the city could get Magistrate Rex McWhorter to help with matter.

### **Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report**

Commissioner Martha Stiffey reported that as far as she knew Chief Vance was doing a great job.

Mayor Stiffey reported that we had to have some repairs done on the electrical system on 701 and a new fan installed on 702 recently.

At this time the floor was turned over to Chief Vance.

Chief Vance reported that the city did not get the COPS grant we had applied for. Smiths Grove scored a 106 and the lowest score to be granted the award in KY was 130. He does not understand how the grading system works or what we need to do to grade higher. Since the city did not get the grant he would like to make a request that the city start looking into the cost of hiring a part-time police officer to cover when he is not on duty. Hopefully the city could find someone who was already certified and only wanted to work a couple of days a week. Part of his reason for bringing this up now is that while he was out of town for training Smiths Grove was hit hard. Two businesses and two vehicles were broken into.

Mayor Stiffey asked the commission what they thought about the matter. Commissioner Cannon stated that he did not see a problem with exploring the possibility of hiring someone and Commissioner Vincent agreed with him. Commissioner Stidham stated that once the cost was figured the city would have to see what was in the budget and if we would have to wait until next year or not.

Chief Vance stated that the city would want to make sure they get the right person for the job not just the easiest hire so it would probably take several months.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Cannon stated that he did not have much to report at this time. However, the prep work has been done out at the cemetery for the paving. He stated that it was his understanding that it is mainly the two (2) front roads that are being paved. Mayor Stiffey replied yes but that one road goes around towards the dumpster.

Mayor Stiffey also stated that he did add in the gravel connection at the chapel and that we only had one (1) mowing this month.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Vincent reported that he felt the city was slowly making progress and that one hundred percent (100%) of the violations have been paid.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Aging Committee - None**

#### **Smiths Grove Days Festival**

Commissioner Stidham reported that at the Health Fair at City Hall; WKU Mobile Health gave fifty four (54) flu shots, and there were around fifty (50) booths that participated in the festival. She did not charge the churches that were giving out free water.

So far there have been no negative comments in regards to the festival. Most people were glad to have the event put on again.

Commissioner Stidham stated that she would like to thank Barry Dye & Travis Edwards for their performing music for the festival, Commissioner Cannon for his help with the garbage, Mayor Stiffey and his wife Diane for helping pick up after the festival, and Anthony for all his help before and after the festival was over. She also stated that all of the businesses that she talked to said they did well that day.

The Commission recognized Ms. Velta Rose Smith who stated that she wanted to applaud Commissioner Stidham and Clerk Brewer because she was skeptical in the beginning but that the festival was a big hit.

At this time Commissioner Stidham thanked Chief Vance for his service as a police officer especially with everything that is going on in the country at this time.

#### **Christmas Parade**

At this time Mayor Stiffey recognized Deon Benson, Dick Horn, Jenny Arterburn, Diana Varner, and Albert Rich with the Lion's Club.

Jenny Arterburn asked for a committee from the city to help the committee from the Lions Club to put this event together. Commissioner Stidham, Clerk Brewer, Mayor Stiffey and Chief Vance all volunteered to be the committee members for the city.

The first meeting will be next Monday night at the Lions Club building at six thirty (6:30) pm.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on sale of 150 W. Third**

The Master Commissioners Auction was Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and this property did sale. It was purchased by Jimmy Pillow for two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300).

Unfortunately, the city will not recoup the all of the cost we have put into cleaning the property but Mr. Pillow will now clean the property up and keep it in code.

**Second 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.**

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

**Second 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.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discuss the purchase of an All-Wheel Drive vehicle for Police Department**

Chief Vance reported that at this time there are only two (2) Pursuit Rated models on the market. One is the 4 wheel drive Ford Explorer and the other is the all-wheel drive Chevy Tahoe. The Warren County Sheriff's Department has the Tahoe and are pleased with it.

Chief Vance stated that never before in the past seventeen (17) years has he not been able to get a cruiser to go where he needed to until this past winter. He and Commissioner Stidham both stated that the reports are for a worse winter this year.

Mayor Stiffey stated that we do have an account that the city has been putting funds into for several years just for the purchase of a replacement vehicle. We also have a small amount of money in the Police Drug fund which is to only be spent on the Police Department.

Mayor Stiffey is in favor of the Ford because it comes equipped with some of the necessary items already installed and it is almost ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) cheaper.

Chief Vance stated that the new radio in 702 will be able to be installed in the new vehicle. However, we will have to purchase a new cage and lights for the vehicle.

Mayor Stiffey stated that if we did purchase a new vehicle we would either auction or take sealed bids on unit 702.

Commissioner Stidham asked if a blade could be installed on the new unit to push snow with. Commissioner Cannon replied that with this type of vehicle it could be done.

Commissioner Cannon asked Chief Vance when we would receive if we ordered. Chief Vance stated that it would be seventy (70) to ninety (90) days for the Ford and February for the Tahoe.

Diane Stiffey asked if one of the vehicles has done better in testing or not. Chief Vance stated that there was not much difference in the two and he had purchased the Ford in the past for Western Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to order and purchase the Ford Explorer and was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

**Bids to take out trees at curve on First and Hedge Streets**

Mayor Stiffey reported that he would like to thank Commissioner Cannon for doing a good job on acquiring three (3) bids for this job.

Commissioner Cannon stated that he had been approached by a resident of the city (Rosco Saltsman) stating that if the city would cut the trees and grind the stumps in the curve at Hedge Street they would donate two hundred dollars (\$200) towards the job.

The three bids that were received are:

Sanders Tree Service: Take out two (2) trees, haul off	\$1,500
Grind stumps	<u>\$200</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>
Hales Tree Service: Remove large Hackberry in curve	\$1,750
Grind and remove stump	\$150
Remove Walnut tree	\$250
Grind	<u>\$75</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,225</b>
Anderson’s Lawn Care Service: Removal of 2 trees	<b>\$2,700</b>

Buddy Marr asked whose property these trees were on and Commissioner Cannon informed that they are on the right of way.

Commissioner Cannon reported that the Hackberry has been hit and is cracked and the Walnut tree is rotten.

Commissioner Vincent inquired as to where the funds for this would come from. Mayor Stiffey asked Clerk Brewer what she thought and she stated it would have to come from Code Enforcement. Commissioner Vincent stated he thought it should be from the Street Maintenance and Repair. Clerk Brewer stated this was not included in their budget and all of the funds for that budget are already allocated.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to accept the bid from Sanders Tree Service to remove the two trees and grind the stumps. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Roll was called: Commissioner Stiffey – Yes, Commissioner Stidham – Yes, Commissioner Vincent – No, Commissioner Cannon – Yes, Mayor Stiffey – Abstain. The motion passed with a vote of 3 – 2.

With there being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Vincent made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. Ayes all members so the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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