

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2016 7:00 P.M.

All Members Present

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.
Invocation was given by Commissioner Gary Vincent
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stiffer welcomed special guest Daine Moats C.P.A who was there to give us our Audit Report.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (December 14, 2015)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report (December, 2015)

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

Administrative Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that Diane Moats C.P.A. was ready to give us a report on the Yearly Audit and turned the floor over to her at this time.

Mrs. Moats explained that this was just a DRAFT of the audit because she is waiting for clarification and guidance from her Peer Reviewer on the Retirement entry that has to be made. However, she did find all records to be good order.

Mrs. Moats stated that the total change in net was a total of twenty nine dollars (\$29) and overall there was a decrease of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500).

Mayor Stiffey stated that since the city does have over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (250,000) for all accounts in the bank; he had talked to the Bank of Edmonson County in regards to if all of our accounts were FDIC insured. They informed him that each account is insured separately so our money is safe.

At this time Mrs. Moats asked that the Commission please take time to look over the audit and to please get with her on any questions or concerns.

Mayor Stiffey thanked Mrs. Moats for the work on our audit and resumed control of the floor.

Mayor Stiffey asked the commission if they had received a copy of the Holidays and Schedule of Meeting Dates that he had the clerk prepar. They replied yes they had.

Mayor Stiffey stated that normally Department Heads were decided on and assigned at the first of the year but unless any of the commission objected he felt they should stay as they are. There were no objections.

Mayor Stiffey reported that he had had all but three (3) of the emergency lights in the building replaced with the new LED because several of them were not working. This along with replacing the flag pole light cost just a little over five hundred dollars (\$500). Also, we had to replace the vent fans on two of the heating systems and that cost fewer than two hundred dollars (\$200).

Public Works Report

Commissioner Stidham stated she had nothing to report at this time however, she would like to thank Mayor Stiffey, John Wayne Smith, and Jack Estes for their work on clearing the roads during our recent snow storm. She would like the city to send a thank you card to Mr. Smith and Mr. Estes after being signed by all of the commission. She stated that she had talked to someone with Scotty's and they charge two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per hour to remove snow and most individuals charge one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175) per hour and up.

Mayor Stiffey reported that he had contacted WRECC in regards to two (2) street lights being out, one on First Street by the Café and one on Rumsey. WRECC told him that once they are replaced with the new style bulbs our cost will go down. He did receive a letter from WRECC but he does not believe the lights have been replaces yet.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that the new cruiser is ready to be picked up at the dealership, and asked when we could pick up.

Chief Vance stated that he hoped it could be picked up this week because it will then need to go to the radio shop to have the radio's installed. He stated that he wished we would have had it last week because the Crown Vic could not handle the snow last week and kept getting stuck.

Chief Vance reported that he has ordered the new Tasers and they should be here in a couple of weeks. They are being purchased on the LEP Grant that Chief Suoy had applied for and received.

Chief Vance stated that he thought the city should purchase some blank stationary with maybe the city logo on it to be used for things like Thank You Cards. He stated he had seen in the past that it was not too expensive.

At this time Mayor Stiffey reported that unit 702 the 2008 Crown Vic was sold back in December. However, the city was asking four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for it but only got three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500). He explained that when C&L Securities out of Alabama called about purchasing the unit he forgot to mention there was a problem with the ABS light coming on. Once they were here and noticed it they were concerned because they have another unit with the same problem and it has cost them two thousand dollars (\$2,000) so far and still isn't fixed. They offered three thousand five hundred dollars (3,500) to purchase as is. Mayor Stiffey called Commissioner Stiffey and discussed with her and then saw Commissioner Vincent and Commissioner Cannon and discussed with them. All were in agreement to go ahead and sell for the price of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Cannon stated he had nothing to report at this time however the cemetery looks nice with all the white snow on it.

Commissioner Cannon also asked if we had heard anything more from Mr. Bishop about the work that still needs to be done on the stones to which the reply was no.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the gravel around the turning radius/intersection on the black topped area was fixed by Fred & Jim.

Also, Mayor Stiffey has talked to Brian Gaul about the contract for next year. Brian would like to increase the contracts by twenty five dollars (425) per mow at the cemetery and five dollars (\$5) per mow at City Hall. This will need to be put on the Agenda for next month.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent stated that Chief Vance talked to the owner of the tenant house on Rumsey that the landlord had cleaned out and set the items on the street and the matter was corrected.

Commissioner Vincent reported that the violation that he and Chief Vance have been working on for several months now is still an issue and the owner has been re-cited.

Chief Vance informed the home owner that it needed to be taken care of ASAP or the city would take care of and charge him for doing so. He also, asked the home owner to attend tonight's meeting hoping he would and this matter could be settled. Unfortunately, the home owner did not attend.

Commissioner Vincent stated that considering the time of year it was that the city should give the home owner sixty (60) days to comply. If he does not then the city will clean it up and charge him. Commissioner Vincent stated this should be done before the March meeting.

Chief Vance stated that he will contact the home owner and see about getting cleaned up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Committee – NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of whether or not to close alleys and naming existing alleys without names

Mayor Stiffey reported that there was a list of proposed names in the packets of the commissioners and asked if the commission wanted to proceed with naming and closing the alleys.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he felt the three for which there were no resident's objection to should be closed and the fourth one should be looked into further. He believes the city should go ahead and deliver letters to all involved parties, explain to them why closing, and have them bring the letter to city hall to be signed and notarized by the clerk if they have no objections. However, the commission should remember that if anyone objects then the city would have to file a law suit in order to close the alley.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to check with the property owners and a Commissioner will personally take a letter to the owner and ask them to bring the letter to city hall to sign and get notarized. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5-0.

It was decided that Commissioner Vincent will take letters to all property owners adjacent to Smith Street, Commissioner Cannon will take letters to all property owners adjacent to the alley between Third and Fourth Streets, and Mayor Stiffey will take letters to all property owners adjacent to the alley between 101 and Beeler.

Discuss possibility of hiring Part-Time Police Officer/Position of Assistant Chief

Mayor Stiffey started off by stating that Chief Vance had said it was best for the position to be an Assistant Chief's position. That way if Chief Vance is not available the Assistant Chief would have the right to sign off on items.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he would like to move forward with hiring a Part-Time Assistant Chief and that there was already someone he would like the commission to consider for the position. He recommends Mr. Greg Claywell who is a retired Detective from the Bowling Green Police Department. This is someone that he, Chief Vance, and some of the Commissioner's know personally and believes it makes it easier if you know the person. He and Chief Vance have looked at the budget and it looks like we could afford to pay ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year which would be ten dollars and fifty cents per hour (\$10.50). However, this is something that the commission will have to vote and decide what rate they want to pay. The position will be sixteen (16) hours per week unless there is a special event or Chief Vance is on vacation or out sick.

Chief Vance stated that there are three (3) KLEC required classes that Mr. Claywell will have to take within the first year if he is hired.

At this time Mayor Stiffey made a motion to proceed with hiring Greg Claywell for the position of Part-Time Assistant Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of bid for stripping/waxing City Hall tile floors

Mayor Stiffey reported that he had received a bid from New Covenant Cleaners Inc. for eight hundred ninety two dollars and forty cents (\$892.40) to strip and wax the tile floors. He had found a bid from 2011 where a company in Bowling Green had quoted six hundred dollars (\$600) and he feels this is a reasonable price. He has researched the company and they do the floors at the Bank of Edmonson County, the Smiths Grove Baptist Church, and Thomas Veterinary and they all speak highly of the company.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Stiffey to accept the bid from New Covenant Cleaners Inc. for eight hundred ninety two dollars and forty cents (\$892.40) to strip and wax the tile floors in City Hall. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members so the motion passed 5 – 0.

Approve purchase of monument for Civil War Veterans burial site and placement of boundary/border around site

Mayor Stiffey stated that in our November meeting it was mentioned that we have been informed there are graves, that are now unmarked, of Civil War Soldiers in a section of our cemetery. There have been some experts out there who have “witched” the area and have found seven (7) bodies in the area that coincides with what Mr. Charles Ground had said he remembered being there. The problem is that we do not have any record of these burials due to the fact records have been misplaced over the years. Also, someone has been pulling into the cemetery property and is cutting deep ruts over these graves.

Commissioner Stidham asked if there weren't laws that protected graves. Attorney Milliken stated that there is if in fact there are Civil War Veterans buried there. However, the only way to know for a fact would be to dig them up as mentioned by Mr. Albert Rich.

Mayor Stiffey stated that what he would like to do is to put up a monument and boundary around the area to prevent people not knowing in the future that someone is buried there. He has received two (2) bids on a monument. One bid from South Central Kentucky Monuments for eighteen hundred dollars (\$1,800), and one from Crume's Monuments. Crume's Monuments has stated that they will donate the monument and all that the city will have to pay is the lettering for the stone and the foundation. The cost for this would be approximately five hundred dollars (\$500).

Commissioner Cannon stated that he had talked to Kenneth Low and he stated that the elevation in the ground of the area in question was due to being a fill site not graves. He remembers this area being used as a fill site since he was a kid.

Mr. Albert Rich stated he thought the area should be marked off in case there was a chance someone was buried there.

Attorney Milliken stated had did not know what type of verification was needed in order to acquire a marker or if any was needed.

At this time a motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to procure a monument from Crume's and dedicate to the unknown buried in that area of the cemetery and preserve for the future. He will talk to them and verify that all the city would pay for is the engraving of the stone and the setting fee and that the cost will be five hundred dollars (\$500) or less. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey and roll was called for. Commissioner Stiffey – Yes, Commissioner Stidham – Yes, Commissioner Vincent – Yes, Commissioner Cannon – No, Mayor Stiffey – Yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4 – 1.

Discuss Personnel Issues

A motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to table this item for a Special Meeting on Monday February 8, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. – Ayes all members so the motion passed 4 – 0.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 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