

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2017 6:00 PM

All Members Present:

Absent: City Attorney Hampton Moore

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation was given by Mayor Stiffey

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stiffey explained that this was the first meeting of new City Officials for 2017 – 2018.

Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor Stiffey explained that a Mayor Pro-Tem is needed for if/when the Mayor must be absent, and the Mayor Pro-Tem can sign checks in the Mayors absence.

Mayor Stiffey stated that at this time Commissioner Gary Vincent is the current Mayor Pro-Tem and is already on the signature cards at the bank.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martha Stiffey to appoint/keep Commissioner Gary Vincent as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Buehl. Roll was called for, Commissioner Martha Stiffey – Yes, Commissioner Anthony Stidham – Yes, Commissioner Gary Vincent – Abstain, Commissioner Bob Buehl – Yes, Mayor Stiffey – Yes. So the motion passed.

Assign/Appoint Department Heads

Mayor Stiffey explained that each Commissioner has a department as a way to spread out the work load, and that each Commissioner is responsible for that particular function. With this being said the next item on the agenda was to decide the City of Smiths Grove Departments and responsible Commissioners.

Mayor Stiffey made the motion to appoint Commissioner Martha Stiffey to the position of Commissioner over Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare department, Commissioner Anthony Stidham as Commissioner over Public Works department, Commissioner Gary Vincent as Commissioner over Code & Municipal Ordinance Enforcement department, and Commissioner Bob Buehl as Commissioner over Cemetery & Public Grounds department. The motion was second by Commissioner Anthony Stidham. Roll was called. The motion passed by a unanimous consent.

Calendar of Commission Activities

Mayor Stiffey passed out to each commissioner a monthly listing of things that are done every year.

Vote to approve emergency repair to concrete drain cover on College Street with extra concrete being used for sidewalk repairs on College Street, and First Street.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he had received a call from Mrs. Doris Hill at 100 College Street stating that the street and sidewalk in front of her house had collapsed and was a danger to people as well as automobiles. Mayor Stiffey explained that at some point in the past, there had been a cap poured over a drain and it had collapsed.

Mayor Stiffey contacted Commissioner Stidham in regards to the matter since Commissioner Stidham had experience with this from his past job. Commissioner Stidham agreed that this matter should be considered as an emergency and fixed immediately.

Commissioner Stidham contacted Mr. Corey Keith and had him to cap, repair, and fix the sidewalk. However, since you have to order a minimum amount of concrete the cost was higher than the five hundred dollars (\$500.00) allotted by ordinance for the mayor or he to spend. Therefore the commission would need to vote to approve paying Mr. Keith.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gary Vincent to approve the job and to pay Mr. Keith, and it was seconded by Commissioner Anthony Stidham. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Resolution 04-16/Sale Settlement of Old City Hall Property

A Resolution of the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to sell the property referred to as “Old City Hall” on Main Street.

Mayor Stiffey read Resolution 04-16 in full and explained that it was basically a housekeeping item since the commission had voted and approved back on September 26, 2016 to give him permission to act on behalf of the city.

Also, Resolution 04-16 stated that “Said property was sold at auction on December 3, 2016 for the total purchase price of \$48,150 including the buyer’s premium, to Billy Dee Miller and wife Angela V. Miller.”

Approval/Discussion of Digital-Electronic Crime Lab work for cell phones etc. To be available to Police Department

At this time Mayor Stiffey turned the floor over to Chief Johnny Vance for his presentation to the commission.

Chief Vance explained that Mike Lemon, a retired Bowling Green Police Detective, has started a local crime lab that can pull information off of any electronic devices such as cell phones, computers, laptops, tablets, ipads, etc... This evidence could be items such as drug activity, child pornography, or other illegal activities that were thought to have been erased.

Chief Vance explained that the Bowling Green Police Department had a one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) crime lab however it caught on fire and all was lost. Now the Bowling Green Police Department uses Mr. Lemons company and it is the best in the area.

The Chief explained that he recently had an incident where he received a warrant on a cell phone and since it had to be sent to a Kentucky State Police lab it took almost a week to get the information off of the phone. Thanks to the information received he was able to locate and retrieve some stolen property. If he had the capability to do this himself he would have had the information quicker and may have been able to stop the suspect from selling the stolen property. It would also make it easier to get a warrant if the item is staying locally.

If the city were to purchase the software it would cost about thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). However, if we agree to a contract with Mr. Lemon he will install the program on the police department's computer, will train both officers, and will do any updates and maintain, and will be available for support 24/7. Mr. Lemon has given the Chief a quote of one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) a year.

Commissioner Gary Vincent asked Chief Vance if this program would be of any benefit to the Fire Department as well and Chief Vance stated that he was not sure because the program was designed more for police use.

Commissioner Bob Buehl asked if Mike Lemon would be able to give our officers phone support to which Chief Vance answered yes.

Commissioner Buehl also asked if the device was encrypted would they be able to retrieve the data or not. Chief Vance stated that unless they had a password they could not get encrypted data but there could be other data recovered.

Commissioner Buehl asked if the city would be locked in to a three year agreement to which Chief Vance stated we would. Also, Chief Vance would like to assess on a yearly basis.

At this time a motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to approve the entering into a contract with Mr. Lemon and the Chief and Commission reviewing the use on a yearly basis, and at the end of the three (3) year contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary Vincent. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Discussion on planting live Christmas tree in center of Brickyard Park for a more permanent fixture/Christmas

Mayor Stiffey reported that we have now used the artificial tree purchased back in 2012 for five (5) Christmas now and some of the lights are starting to go out on it. He would like for the city to purchase a white pine and plant it in the middle of the brick yard. He is aware that it would have to be cut back at least once a year but he feels Brian Gaul or himself could do the job. Also, he would like to purchase it from someone that will plant it and guarantee it as well.

Commissioner Gary Vincent stated that the Mayor should get some estimates and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

At this time Mayor Stiffey asked the commission if he could get approval to have Fritz Law Firm to come in and speak to the commission in regards to the collection of delinquent taxes. Clerk Brewer reminded the Mayor this item was not on the agenda for the Special Called Meeting and could not be discussed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Stiffey adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

APPROVED _____
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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