

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY APRIL 23, 2018 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mayor Stiffey, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Vincent, Commissioner Stiffey, and Commissioner Buehl

Also Present: City Attorney Hampton Moore

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
Invocation was given by Chaplain Casey Mathias
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stiffey welcomed all in attendance including Helen Siewers of Cave Country Trails, Inc. Ms. Siewers presented an update on the U.S. Bike Route System which will run through Smiths Grove. Commissioner Buehl asked what the estimated number of riders on the trail would be. Ms. Siewers stated there would be approximately 250-400 per year. She stated the Bluegrass Cycling Club in Lexington has a website that is an excellent resource for riders. She also stated that Josh Moore of the Warren County Public Works Department had offered to provide signs for the route and she said she assumed that would include signage for Smiths Grove. Commissioner Buehl asked if there is anything the City needed to do to prepare and Ms. Siewers suggested that we could provide permanent bike racks. She said a good estimate for a bike rack is \$500.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (March 26, 2018)
Minutes of Special Meeting (April, 12, 2018)

The minutes were approved by acclimation.

Treasurers Report (February 2018)

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5- 0.

Administrative Report

Mayor Stiffey stated that the Clerk's computer had crashed due to a power outage. ISTT installed a new computer and we have had quite a time getting all programs up and running again.

Mayor Stiffey and Commissioners set the work session for FY 2019 budget for Thursday, April 12 at 5:00 pm.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that Scotty's has completed paving on College Street, First Street, and in the cemetery. She stated that they had done a good job and everything looked nice. She stated Laurel Street is the next to be paved but we are waiting on Atmos Energy to finish installation of the new gas lines. She said it may be 2 months before Atmos Energy is finished. Buddy Marr stated that after Laurel Street is done, the remainder of College Street needs to be done. He suggested that the City consider widening of the railroad crossing. Commissioner Vincent stated it is too steep. Commissioner Buehl mentioned putting signage up regarding the narrow crossing at the railroad tracks. He also stated the paving in front of the old city hall looks great. Mayor Stiffey stated that Shawn Smith had paid for paving that was done on his property.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Smith stated that an ordinance regarding jake brakes needs to be passed. He also stated he needs to get some signs made. He turned the floor over to Officer Claywell who didn't have anything to report at that time.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Buehl stated the cemetery paving looks good and very clean. Mayor Stiffey stated Commissioner Buehl needs to meet with Brian Gaul to discuss updated cemetery regulations. Commissioner Buehl stated he wants to replace the trash receptacles currently in the cemetery with something more attractive. He stated they would be secured to make sure they don't go anywhere. He is also looking at video cameras which would be monitored by the Police Department.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent stated that grass is beginning to grow, there are folks out of compliance, and abandoned property is always an issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Committee

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on proposed new rate fees for occupational licenses was conducted. The fee can be raised across the board, but we can't use percentage due to the population of the city. The Senate and House may try to add this to a bill next session. Mayor Stiffey stated we need the income but, citizens he has spoken to do not like the amounts that were discussed at the last commission meeting. Commissioner Vincent recommended leaving amounts as is and waiting until next year to see what the legislature does. Commissioner Vincent stated he suggests cutting expenses instead of raising taxes. Commissioner Stiffey suggested raising the amount to a \$50 flat fee. Mayor Stiffey stated this is a tough subject. Buddy Marr stated raising taxes is unpopular but, we must increase or we will be in the hole. Mayor Stiffey mentioned the increase in license fees a few years ago. Steve Roney stated he is paying 13% in taxes off the top for the Victorian House Bed & Breakfast. Buddy Marr stated companies don't pay taxes, people do. Businesses pass this

fee on to customers. Mayor Stiffey stated all we can do is set a standard rate. Commissioner Stiffey made a motion to increase the occupational license fee to \$50. Donald Laws stated he paid Bowling Green, Warren County, and Warren County school tax. A citizen stated she heard small business owners say at last commission meeting that they would move if fees increased. Steve Roney stated there is a problem with burning in the city which causes a terrible smell for his guests. Mayor Stiffey stated this may be covered under the nuisance ordinance. Commissioner Buehl stated that companies receive good Police service and good roads for the fees that they pay. Commissioner Smith stated he would write up a new proposal and present it at the next commission meeting. Commissioner Vincent said it's not fair because you can't compare McDonald's to Ms. Betty's. He also stated it would never be fair until a percentage is used. Commissioner Smith stated he feels the percentage will pass in the next legislative session. A citizen asked if the city's population will be at 1,000 when the next census is taken. There was no second on Commissioner Stiffey's motion so the motion was not considered.

Mayor Stiffey stated that Officer Greg Claywell's pay rate needs to be discussed. Assistant Chief Jeff Wright was given a pay increase to \$15 per hour. Mayor Stiffey stated Officer Claywell's rate of pay is \$13 per hour and he has been here longer than Assistant Chief Wright. Mayor Stiffey made the motion to increase Officer Claywell's hourly rate to \$15 and to give him back pay from his latest week of training and going forward. Officer Claywell stated he would appreciate a pay increase but does not want back pay. Mayor Stiffey withdrew the motion and Commissioner Vincent made a motion for a pay increase only. Mayor Stiffey seconded the motion. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he made three calls regarding the sinkhole behind City Hall and only one vendor, Deweese Construction, had responded. Since they don't know what they will run in to, both companies said they could only charge an hourly rate until they know what they are dealing with. It has been determined that this may be a drainage issue and not a sinkhole. Deweese said if it is a drainage issue, it should not be expensive. Mayor Stiffey made the motion to allow Scotty's Contracting & Stone to investigate. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Stiffey stated that applications for the open City Clerk position are due April 25 and the Commission needs to choose a date to review applications and narrow down to 3-5 applicants to interview. Mayor Stiffey also mentioned the 2nd reading of Ordinance #2018-001 to increase the Mayor's pay beginning in 2019 will also need to be on the special meeting agenda. The Commission set the date of the special meeting as May 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Attorney Moore stated the entire Commission could meet in special session to review applications.

Discussion was conducted regarding adjusting the Mayor's pay to \$2,400.00 annually from \$1,600.00. Commissioner Buehl stated the Assistant Cemetery Sexton makes

\$1,800.00 per month – more than the Mayor does. Commissioner Vincent stated it will be effective January 2019. The Mayor read Ordinance 2018-001 increasing the Mayor’s pay to \$2,400.00 annually. Commissioner Vincent made a motion to approve. Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED _____
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE _____
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk