

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL CENTER
MONDAY APRIL 24, 2006 7:00 P.M.

All members were present: Mayor Watt, Commissioner Higginbotham, Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Pierce. Absent: Commissioner Varner
There was a full quorum.

Also present City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Watt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Mayor Watt thanked everyone for being here.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (March 27, 2006)

Minutes of above-referenced motion was made by C. Higginbotham seconded by C. Martin to approve said minutes as written. Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none, a roll call vote was taken. Roll call: Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt, C. Martin and C. Pierce. Voting no: none

Minutes of Special Meeting (April 11, 2006)

Minutes of above-referenced motion was made by C. Pierce seconded by C. Martin to approve said minutes as written. Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none, a roll call vote was taken. Roll call: Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt, C. Martin and C. Pierce
Voting no: none

Mayor Watt said before we go into the reports he has a Resolution he received at BRADD today, this is a Resolution of Adoption of the Barren River Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. If we do not pass this, and if there were a disaster we would not be available for any Federal Relief. He is asking for a motion. Motion was made by C. Pierce seconded by C. Higginbotham to approve Resolution of Adoption of the Barren River Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none, A roll call was taken: Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt, C. Martin and C. Pierce
Voting no: none

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (March 06)

Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none motion was made by C. Martin seconded by C. Higginbotham to accept the March 06 Treasurer Report. A roll call vote was taken. Roll call: Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt, C. Martin and C. Pierce.
Voting no: none

Police Report

Mayor Watt said Commissioner Varner is not with us tonight.
He read the Police Report. Mayor Watt asked Chief Vance if he has anything he would like to add, Chief Vance said no.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Higginbotham read the Quarterly Cemetery Report.

Total funds available is \$ 8206.09 Openings \$ 125.00 Transfers from City \$ 3500.00 Expenditures \$ 4835.72.

Commissioner Higginbotham added that the Fiscal Court had got the gravel out there and the street got paved. Mayor Watt said he wanted everyone to know that Esquire Tommy Hunt had got that done for the City and wanted to thank him for that, also Jack Estates. Later on we will get more of the roads graveled. A concerned citizen, asked if there was any way that signs good be put up out at the cemetery, for people to respect the cemetery when it comes to cleaning up after their pets? Mayor Watt said he would see what he could do.

Street Report

Commissioner Martin said he and Commissioner Varner met with the county on the drainage problem they had done and everything is going fine with that. The problem, on Cave Street that is also taken care of. The alleys all got graveled. Mayor Watt said once again he wants to thank Esquire Hunt on his help with the gravel as well.

Public Safety, Health & Welfare Report

Commissioner Pierce said he has had a lot of complaints on the grass getting so high, also the hole on Main Street. The Weight Watchers is wanting a key to the City Hall Building and feels that they should not have one, so that is dead.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Zoning

Mayor Watt said we want to thank Albert Rich for being here, asked Albert if he had anything to report? Mr. Rich said no everything is going good.

Beautification

Sherry Higginbotham said that they have not had any meetings, their first one was last week and she and Martha Watt had discussed on getting shrubs, trees and flowers for the New City Hall. This coming up Saturday, they will be painting the park benches at the Old City Hall, and getting the flower pots done over there. They are back on having the meetings once a month. Mayor Watt said that we are going to bid the landscaping out for the New City Hall, have professionals do that. This is part of the grant we received to go towards that

Christmas Parade

They have not had any meetings lately; next one is in June. He really is needing volunteers for the Christmas Parade some of the ones that have been on there has been on the committee since they started, and they are getting burned out. The Web Site is still doing really good, got about 550 hits last month. Mayor Watt said he would hate to see the Christmas Parade dropped, so he highly encourages everyone to participate in this, so that does not happen.

Annexation

Commissioner Higginbotham said that letters would be sent out to the Annexation Committee, stating that the meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. here at the City Hall. They are working on a different direction on how to increase the size of the city without eliminating new people coming into Smiths Grove.

Aging

Mayor Watt said there is no report

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Plots

Commissioner Higginbotham said that he had done out a chart on charges for the cemetery plots. The clerk had got the rates in the state of Kentucky from all the clerks and Smiths Grove is the lowest other than Horse Cave. We should really increase our plots, we need more money for the maintenance to keep out at the cemetery. The Cemetery account has to still rely on the General Account from the City. Commissioner Higginbotham recommends \$500.00. Mayor Watt said he is looking at maybe \$400.00. Commissioner Pierce said he thinks maybe \$375.00. Commissioner Martin said \$600.00. Several citizens addressed concern if this was going to help the city or does the city just want to keep up with everyone else. Commissioner Higginbotham said that if everyone could recall when he had read the cemetery report, the cemetery can not stand on it's own. Mayor Watt suggests having each of the Commission and himself to do more study also we do not have a Commissioner here tonight that we would like his impute. We will have this on next month's agenda.

Homeland Security Grant (MDT)

Mayor Watt said this grant is for 1 MDT Heather Plowman with the Bowling Green Police Department, she is the one writing the grant. The City of Smiths Grove is requesting for a \$ 9,784. The City will be responsible for the amount up front, but will be reimbursed after 30 days. Asked Chief Vance if he could explain what this all about. Chief Vance said basically this is a grant for a computer, this is really going to help in a lot of ways. First he will be able to do reports while he is out doing other work, like radar or what ever, instead of coming back into his office. It is also like a credit card scanner; it will scan your license pull all the data up on that individual. Mayor Watt said the total project cost is \$ 2,571,601. This is for all surrounding cities. And Smiths Grove is one of them he thinks this is really a nice thing to have for Chief Vance. Asked the Commission what they think. All Commission is in agreement of applying for the grant. Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none, a motion was made by Commissioner Pierce seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham to approve the Homeland Security Grant Agreement for 1 (MDT). A roll call was taken. Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt yes, C. Martin and C. Pierce Voting no: none

Auxiliary Police Officer

Mayor Watt asked Chief Vance if he could explain what this is. Commissioner Varner is not here. Chief Vance said he has been trying to figure out a way to get something going on days he is not here, because when he is not here something always seems to go wrong. The benefit for the city is all the officers have to go to the academy, all the city will have to pay is just for there physical training which will run about \$300.00 that does include the uniforms also. They will be screened before hire. Now if they don't pass the city will be without that money. The date of hire they will have to sign a contract for a (6) month service or a year. Mayor Watt said he likes the idea of the (6) month service. As soon as an Ordinance is passed we can start the interviewing and go from there. Commissioner Pierce asked would this have to be on this year's budget or next year's budget? Mayor Watt explained that we have to have 2 readings on an Ordinance than this will have to

come out of the 06/07 budget. Right now we need a motion to go forward with the procedures. A motion was made by Commissioner Pierce seconded by Commissioner Martin to go ahead with the procedure to get an Ordinance put together and have it state start with two officers at a time in a year's time. Mayor Watt asked for discussion with none given Roll call was taken Voting yes: C. Higginbotham, Mayor Watt, C. Martin, And C. Pierce. Voting no: none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Parking On Main Street

Commissioner Pierce said he still feels parking on Main Street is a danger and would like to see it closed. Mayor Watt said he had spoke with the state since the last meeting on parking on one side, but it will take a lot to get that done almost impossible, however it could be done. Commissioner Pierce said that Kristen Jagers is suppose to get him some more information on who will be maintaining the road concerning the bypass. Mayor Watt said they are going to start on this and have completed in 08 is projected. And when that gets done that will solve the problem right there. There will be only those using main street that live on main and doing business. Commissioner Pierce feels like that still won't solve the problem. Mayor Watt said he wants to open this up to the floor and ask for everyone to address his or her names and concerns. Sandra Cook said she lives on Main Street and feels like this issue is not a danger, if Main Street was to have no parking you are opening that up to drag racing. The vehicles are like a protection for her children. Scott Ray asked Commissioner Pierce if he was the one pushing this issue? Commissioner Pierce replied yes, Mr. Scott asked was his reason because he was afraid someone might die. Commissioner Pierce responded yes. Mr. Scott said that could happen out on 65. He feels it really is not dangerous and who can afford to have remodeling done, putting in drives or parking in the back of their homes. Nathan Mathingly said his wife is the one who got hit, Thank God she is ok, but he thinks this is a joke to have Main Street with no parking. He feels like this will not take care of the speeding, all it will do is just making it worse. Chief Vance agreed with the citizens if no parking was on Main Street it would just be opened to the speeders. Several others spoke up as well, on not wanting the street closed. Mayor Watt said with no more discussion would bring this issue up another time.

Old City Hall Building

Mayor Watt said Commissioner Varner is not here but he would like to let everyone know that Commissioner Varner had been trying to get an Ambulance Service, County and State to use that building. Although the EMS said the building would not work because they could not get the vehicles in or out of the building plus looking at the date of calls they receive in Smiths Grove it would not help out. The State said they would prefer using the New City Hall to be able to work out of. The County said they already work Smiths Grove. Mayor Watt said with all said we need to have on next months agenda what avenue they need to take to get something done with this building.

Mayor Watt said asked if anyone has anything more to add with none given

Mayor Watt adjourned the meeting approximately 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Watt thanked all of the citizens for coming.

APPROVED: _____
LARRY STEVE WATT, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
DONNA L LOONEY CITY CLERK

DATE: _____

Minutes were prepared by City Clerk Donna L Looney