

Smiths Grove City Commission meeting - April 26, 1999

FY 1999-2000 proposed budget and Mayor's annual budget message.

The Mayor opened the budget message with the statement that this proposed budget holds no major changes from the 1998-1999 budget. There was a slight increase in both income and disbursements in the prior budget due to the \$85,000 sidewalk grant. He added there is a problem with any probable increase in revenue because there is no building currently in Progress. Consequently, there isn't any substantial increase in the tax revenue. He said this could be done by annexation, which, in his opinion, would draw a lot of objections at the present time. Perhaps in the future something could be done to increase the tax base. The city's main revenue is from insurance premium taxes, which generates approximately \$60,000 per year. He told those in attendance, the city proposed to have \$401,241 in carry forward funds and after the proposed expenditures, would have approximately \$223,651 at the end of the budget year. He called for questions or discussions from either the commission or those in attendance.

Commissioner Howard ask how the carryover funds got so low. The clerk responded that in the past fiscal year the city had purchased a new patrol car, used \$70,000 for the construction of the new sidewalks, surfaced two streets and purchased a computer. Commissioner Howard then ask how the previous carry-forward funds got to \$500,000. The clerk said it takes a considerable amount of saving for the city to reach this kind of available funds. Comm. Howard said it was his opinion that after this budget, the city should get back to saving for a while. Buddy Marr ask if the city has a fire department. The Mayor said no. Mr. Marr wondered why it was listed in the proposed budget. The Mayor said it could be changed to read City Fire Protection. Dewey Smith commented that the Mayor had spoken of possible annexation in the future. He said if the city didn't do some annexation and the airpark comes in, Smiths Grove could be a remote island of sorts. Mayor McCay said annexation was a sensitive subject that has to be addressed in the future. With no further discussion to be heard, the Mayor declared the meeting closed.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and special called meeting

The Mayor called for additions or corrections to these two meetings. With none to be heard, Comm. Hardy presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written seconded by Comm. Cooke. The Mayor said with no objections to be heard, and by unanimous consent, the Minutes of the two meetings were accepted as written minutes of the two meetings were accepted. Comm. Hardy presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Cooke. Roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

2. Treasurer's report

Comments or additions to this report were called for. With none to be heard, the Mayor said by unanimous consent and with no objections to be heard, the report was accepted as printed.

Gerald Brown ask for permission to make a comment. He said he would like to revert back to where the commission was allowed to vote on each topic on the agenda. The Mayor ask the commission's opinion regarding this suggestion. Comm. Cooke said he would prefer to revert back that method. The other Commissioners had no comment.

3. Quarterly financial statement Smiths Grove Cemetery

Mayor McCay ask for comments or corrections on this report. With none to be heard, Comm. Cooke motioned the report be accepted as printed, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

4. First reading Ordinance #99-1620.9 - city lot clean up

Mayor McCay read this ordinance in full. He called for comments. Buddy Marr ask if the city has a fire chief. The Mayor said we use the counties. Mr. Marr wondered if we should say the city fire chief in the ordinance. Mayor McCay said since the city supports the department and we are under their jurisdiction, this statement could stand.

Carlos Lopez wondered if the fine was per day or per occurrence. It is per day and per occurrence. With no further discussion the first reading now becomes a portion of the minutes.

5. Department reports

Streets: Comm. Cooke said the sidewalks were coming very well and should be done in about a week or ten days. He added it would then be time to grade and gravel the city alleys.

Police: Comm. Martin read the monthly report. (copy attached). She said she was still seeking bids for the patrol car.

Public safety, health and welfare: Comm. Hardy said he had not had good luck trying to get the area at 101 and Vincent fixed. The clerk said she had talked with the state highway dept. and they had agreed to repair this area. She will check back with them. Comm. Hardy said he had also had complaints regarding the high shrubbery at the corner of First and College. The clerk said she had spoken with the new owners of the property, and they had agreed to cut them. She will contact them again. Comm. Hardy added he had numerous complaints regarding the \$2.20 tax that is added to cable bills. Mayor McCay said he had talked with Mr. Bill Helmbold, General Manager of Intermedia Cable regarding this tax. Mr. Helmbold responded that they were currently negotiating a settlement on this tax with Jefferson County and other northern counties. The Mayor encouraged Mr. Helmbold to include the Smiths Grove area in any settlement that might be reached. Comm. Hardy then said that WBKO is encouraging all homes to have their house number posted on their residence. He said that he would also encourage all Smiths Grove residents to do the same. He said it is vital when emergency vehicles are responding to a call.

Cemetery: Comm. Howard said he had talked with the new maintenance contractor and called their attention to the lack of weed eating. Mrs. Meredith had assured him that it would be done in the future as they were adding additional help. Mr. Meredith also told Comm. Howard that he would purchase the grass seed in the very near future. Mr. Howard had called their attention to the grass accumulation on the headstones and ask that they use a leaf blower in the future to keep it removed. They agreed to do so. Comm. Howard that at the last meeting he had been told to look around for a good price on a chain saw for the cemetery. Comm. Howard said he didn't feel an urgency to do that immediately, but there was a large limb that had blown down, so he went to Sears and purchased the chain saw for \$142.00. He said it was stored at city hall should any of the other commissioners need for city use. He added had obtained the key to the chapel from the mayor. He had looked at the interior of the chapel and he found it surprisingly good shape. He said it needs some cleaning and sweeping but addressed Comm. Hardy regarding the use of it for his cliental. He added that he and Comm. Cooke were looking into the purchase of some kind of weed kill for the exterior of the rock wall. He ask that any persons having comments or suggestions regarding the cemetery address them to him. Buddy Marr ask what the storage shed was used for. He said it was in bad condition and looked awful. It is his opinion that it should either be tom down or repaired. Comm. Howard that hopefully in the future there could be some, perhaps, wooden trash containers purchased, and this would help the looks of the cemetery. Shelvie Dubree said her homemakers club was going to plant flowers at both entrances of the cemetery the next week.

6. Other

The Mayor then read particulars from a manual regarding motions by unanimous consent.

A building permit for Art's Used Parts for a new building on his premises was considered by the commission. The zoning is C-1 and the building will be set back the required 15 feet from all property lines. Jeff Smith said he felt there should be a drainage plan issued with this permit, as there has been a problem with water drainage in that area in the past. The clerk agreed to ask for this.

The Mayor announced that a Beautification Committee had been formed consisting of Sandra McCay, Chairman, Pat Marr, Barbara Gilley, Eva Webb, Barbara Jordan, Jackie Lightfoot, and Doris Hill. He said he would like to see more committees formed in the future, and encouraged anyone who would like to be on one of them to do so.

He then said the city cleanup day had been held April 24 and was quite successful. As usual, things that were prohibited from dumping were dumped, but in his opinion, it was quite successful. He felt some changes were needed before it's attempted next year. Perhaps some kind of identification showing those using the dumpsters, were

from the city. Magistrate Hunt said if assistance was needed in getting another dumpster let him know. He also said that he, Comm. Cooke and James Gilley had met with Steve Meeks from the State Highway Dept. regarding the problem at Sixth and Hedge. Mr. Meeks said that they would take care of this for the city.

Jimmy Cline wondered what the Commission intended to do about Jeff Blaine's heavy equipment. He said it was still being parked at his residence. The Mayor said when Mr. Cline saw the equipment there; he should call the city police. He agreed to do so

With no further business to be presented a motion to adjourn was heard.

Walter McCay, Mayor

Dorothy J. Neal, City Clerk