

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY APRIL 28, 2014 7:00 P.M.

All Members Present

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. (Delay due to C.O.W.S. going off)
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham recognized special guests Charles Meeks who is running for Magistrate of the 4th District, and John Wayne Smith who is running for State Representative.

Mayor Higginbotham opened the floor for a Question & Answer session with Mr. Meeks and Mr. Smith.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (March 24, 2014)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (March, 2014 and Quarterly)

Report was approved by acclimation

Public Works Report

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey requested bids from Southern Paving and Scotty's for work on the alleys by paving aprons twenty feet into each alley.. He received a bid from Southern Paving to grade 6 Alleys, install 14 Asphalt Aprons into alleys twenty (20) feet in from cross streets, patch one (1) existing apron, and to patch curve on Cave Street. This bid did not include any new stone that may be needed.

- The total for this bid from Southern Paving was seven thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$7,950.00).

Scotty's brought a bid to city hall for paving:

120 LF of Floral Ave

Off Sunset near Arts Used parts 350LF

Church alley 6th St to 2nd street 1238 LF

Alley between main st & cave stree 2nd st to 6th st 1277 LF

- grade & shape – required stone is additional

- pave ends of alley as directed 20x12 using 2" base mix 1 1/4" surface mix

Total 18 intersections

Includes Higgins Alley 811 LF

- The total for this bid from Scotty's was eight thousand three hundred and forty six dollars (\$8,346.00).

Scotty's also provided a bid for paving East Fourth street from College to Kentucky (approximately 1,271 feet was sixteen thousand three hundred and twenty dollars (\$16,320.00))

Since this was the only bid for East Fourth Street and we are at the end of Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 Budget for streets this item will be tabled.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Varner read the Police Report for the month of March and reported that we have now had two Daymar College students complete their internship with us.

At this time Commissioner Varner stated that he wanted to give thanks and commendation to our police officers as well as to our fire department for a job well done.

Commissioner Varner inquired if Chief Suoy had anything to add. The Chief stated that since the City of Bowling Green and Warren County are going to the new P25 digital 800 radio system we are going to have to have new radios in August. Per the e-mail he received from Stephen Harmon with Warren County Emergency Management, mobile units will cost two thousand seven hundred and sixty eight dollars (\$2,768.00) each and portable units will cost two thousand four hundred and forty nine dollars (\$2,449.00) each and we will need two of each. All emergency personnel will have to convert to this system before October.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that we have had more gravel added to the roads in the cemetery and they have been graded and rolled. The roads are now in good condition but there is one that we may have to add a little more gravel to in the fall.

Commissioner Pierce also reported that Brian Gaul is doing an outstanding job at keeping our cemetery looking nice.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner David Stiffey stated that growing season has now started and once again residents are not keeping their properties to his standards of code.

He complained that Terry at the old Library building had pallets on the sidewalk Friday from where he had just received a delivery that day and the day before. Commissioner David Stiffey informed him that they must be removed because they were a fire hazard. He also noticed that there were items between that building and the Hardware Store.

At this time Commissioner David Stiffey stated that he wants the city to go back on the Inter Local Agreement Ordinance (Ordinance Number 09-02 910.00) we have with Warren County which was signed April 4, 2009. He wants the city to take back control of Code Enforcement from Warren County and establish a "Code Enforcement Board" to meet once a month because

he feels the job is more than one person can handle. Also, with the county cut backs and shortage of hours we will no longer be getting the prompt attention needed from the county.

Mayor Higginbotham stated that the reason we turned our code enforcement over to Warren County in the first place, was because they have the infrastructure to enforce the ordinances and we do not. In the past we have sent letters along with the fines that would be incurred and the letters were ignored. We do not have the personnel or the infrastructure to enforce the rules.

Attorney Milliken stated that what we have now is an Interlocal Agreement Ordinance which coincides with Warren County's Ordinance (09-17WC 910.00) and gives them authority because we could not enforce our original ordinance. As the Mayor stated, the commission turned over to the county because they have the infrastructure to be able to enforce. The cities only other option was to file liens on the properties and the legal costs could get extravagant for the city.

He also stated that the county may not have the manpower but by agreement they must still comply with the agreement. Besides, how would the city disentangle ourselves from this agreement and what actions do we take? Do we send one of our officers out every week? However, he does like the idea of having a Code Enforcement Board.

Ken Marr, being recognized by the commission, stated that he thought the city should advertise that they were going to have a community walk and then try to shame residents into cleaning up their property.

Commissioner Pierce stated at this time he would like to address the recycling dumpster behind the fire department. He produced pictures that were taken of the dumpster with piles of items lying in front of it. He reported that this is not the first time we have had this problem. In the past he has had to call them because it was running over and was informed by Southern Recycling that they only come pick it up when it is full. The dumpster is going four (4) to five (5) weeks before it is being emptied. Per the County Ordinance which was passed by Mike Buchannon it is supposed to be emptied every week. Commissioner Pierce would like to know if we can have the dumpster moved because it is making a mess of our city.

Attorney Milliken stated that it has to be on county property but if the ordinance states that it must be emptied every week then Southern Recycling must adhere to the ordinance.

Mayor Higginbotham stated that he would call Southern Recycling himself first thing in the morning and discuss the matter with them.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

350 W. Third Street

Attorney Milliken stated that at this time he has nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor's Budget Message

Mayor Higginbotham read the Mayor's Budget Message to all in attendance.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 14-002 230.20

2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year Budget

The Ordinance was read by Clerk Brewer. Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance and the motion was second by Commissioner Varner. Discussion was called for.

Commissioner Varner had stated that he did not include the new radio system in his budget for next year but he would make the figures he had work. Commissioner Pierce asked him if he was sure and he replied "Yes. We will make it work as it is."

Commissioner David Stiffey referred to a Resolution that the city adopted that established a goal of paving one street a year. He felt that the city should add revenue from the general fund to

With there being no more discussion roll was called. Commissioner Varner – Yes, Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey – No, Commissioner Pierce – Yes, Commissioner David Stiffey – No, Mayor Higginbotham – Yes. The motion passed with 3 – 2 vote.

Walk In Items

Commissioner Pierce stated that he has been in discussion with Warren County about the C.O.W.S. in place. He was told that Warren County puts up four (4) a year. He spoke to Ronnie Pearson in regards to getting another one put up on the north end of town because people on that end of town cannot hear the one at Ed Spears Park. Mr. Pearson informed him that they cost twenty two thousand dollars (\$22,000.00) each but that the county does have a 50/50 program that they do. The one at Ed Spears Park was purchased several years ago through a grant and only cost the city three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).

Commissioner Pierce stated that maybe we could get one and see if North Warren would allow it to be put on their property. John Wayne Smith suggested it be put on the school and stated he would get in contact with someone to see if they would be willing to allow this.

Commissioner Pierce stated that if the city could not afford to put up another one that the city buys every household a Personal Alert Radio on a shared cost program.

Commissioner Stiffey enquired as to why there was no longer an Antique festival every year. He was informed that it is due to the cost of insurance. Also, the Antique Festival was never put on by the City of Smiths Grove. There was a committee made up of several people involved with antiques from several cities and it was headed by Wanda Jackson.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

APPROVED _____

BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST

DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE

Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk