

City Commission meeting - August 26, 1996 - 7:00 p.m. - City Hall

Mayor Gilley called the meeting to order with all commissioners in attendance as well as numerous interested citizens.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Mayor ask those in attendance if they would like to have these minutes read or had any questions regarding them. With no comments to be heard, Comm. Martin presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Lacy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

2. Treasurers report

Mayor Gilley told those in attendance, if any of them would like to have a copy of this or any other report or ordinance that was presented, the clerk would be glad to make a copy for them. He then called for additions, corrections or comments to this report. With none to be heard, Comm. Hardy presented a motion the report be accepted as printed, seconded by Comm. Cooke. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

3. Annual financial statement - Smiths Grove Cemetery

Again the Mayor told those in attendance if they would like to have a copy of this report, they could obtain one. Comm. Lacy presented a motion the financial statement be accepted with the exception of the maintenance contractor, and it should be changed from \$7800.00 to \$7500.00, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

4. Annual financial statement-City of Smiths Grove

The clerk explained to the commission and those in attendance that the \$49,243 increase in expenditures over the previous fiscal year was from the expenditures required from the general fund to pave the city streets. With no more comments to be heard, Comm. Lacy presented a motion the report be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

5. Municipal Order #96-3 - recommending the acceptance of Oakland, KY. to the City-County Planning Commission

The Mayor explained that Oakland had attempted to become members of the commission on prior occasions, and now they had been accepted. Comm. Hardy presented a motion the Municipal Order be accepted, seconded by Comm. Lacy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

6. Motor vehicle and watercraft vehicle tax rate discussion

Mayor Gilley stated that at the present time, the property and tangible tax rate was set at 12.4¢ per \$100 assessment and the vehicle tax was 26¢ per \$100 assessment. He feels there is too much difference in the two tax rates, and that the vehicle tax rate was too high. Comm. Martin wondered what the rate of other cities was. No one knew. Comm. Hardy commented that any time there could be a decrease in taxes, he was all for it. Mayor Gilley called for comments or suggestions from the other comm. They all agreed that if the city could financially stand the cut, they were for it. Jeff Smith ask how much revenue the current tax generated. The clerk said in the area of \$7,000. The Mayor suggested a rate of 20¢ per \$100 assessment. Comm. Lacy presented a motion to lower the vehicle and watercraft tax rate from the current 26¢ to 20¢, effective for the year 1997, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote-Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

7. Department reports

Cemetery: Comm. Lacy said he had nothing to report. He felt the contractor was doing some better in keeping the cemetery mowed and trimmed.

Police: Comm. Martin said the patrol car was torn up and needed a tube in the steering column at a cost of \$225.00. She said it also needed a motor for the windshield wipers. She is checking prices for this. She then read the monthly police report. (copy attached)

Streets: Comm. Cooke said there was a problem on Laurel (Hays-Smiths Grove road) where it had washed out and was causing a drainage problem. Comm. Hardy said Kenway had graded and filled this area approximately three weeks ago but it had just washed again. Mayor Gilley said the city had reached an agreement with Fiscal Court regarding county roads within the city limits but the County Engineer wouldn't honor it. He said he would talk with Judge Buchannon at his first opportunity about this problem.

Comm. Martin also reported that the Neighborhood Watch effort was going very well and that the signs for this effort were in and being put up.

8. Other

First reading Ordinance #96-1 920.18-rezoning 0.409 acres at 225 Broadway from R-1 to R-2

The Mayor explained that this was property owned by the Smiths Grove Baptist and Smiths Grove Presbyterian Churches, and previously owned by Jennings Garman, and this rezoning was necessary to complete the sale of the property. Comm. Cooke presented a motion, the first reading of the above named Ordinance be accepted, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote-Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes. The second reading of this ordinance will be Tuesday, 8/27/96.

Connie Laws wondered if there wasn't something that could be done about the area around the city Welcome sign. She said there were so many other signs around it it couldn't be seen too well. Jackie Bryce said she thought there was a portable sign law that would affect this. Mayor Gilley said that at the time the Welcome Sign was erected, Mark James was contacted regarding moving his portable sign. He said the owner, John Smith had given him permission to put it there as long as he kept the area mowed, and he wouldn't move it.

Lawrence and Martha Stiffey said they had come to the meeting to see if the city couldn't possibly contact the state regarding the placement of sidewalk on the west side of Highway 101 from Frans Financial Bank to the truckstop, creating a safe walking area for those that must walk to the store, as well as connecting the old portion of the city with the new area at the interstate. He said one of our State Representatives had informed him that if the city would contact him as well as the state, he felt there would be an effort made towards getting this sidewalk installed. The clerk agreed to contact our State Representatives.

Comm. Martin and Buddy Marr wondered if something couldn't be done about the bushes along Laurel at the fire station. She said when you attempted to pull out from this area, it was very dangerous. Comm. Hardy said there had been complaints regarding weeds blocking some signs in the city and he had taken care of these complaints.

Shelvie Dubree wondered if something could be done about the trailer on Sixth St. across from the monument business. Buddy Marr commented that there is supposed to be a new agency that will clean up solid waste. The clerk agreed to contact Ralph Pearson, the owner of the trailer to see if would get it moved or cleaned up.

Buddy Marr asked if there was any way there could be a street light erected at Sixth and Church Alley. He said this was a very dark area. Mayor Gilley said in the past this had been a very expensive process, but the clerk will contact WRECC to get a price.

Quinton Vibbert wondered if the city had been contacted by other businesses about locating in the city. The commission said they had not heard of any.

Shirley Martin said she had received a letter from Lena Sweeten about some volunteers from the city to aid in the bi-centennial celebration of Bowling Green and Warren County. She will leave the letter with the clerk for interested volunteers.

Mayor Gilley then turned the floor over to Joe Lyle from Warren County Water District to discuss and possibly answer complaints regarding water pressure in the Lawson Street area. Mr. Lyle said the clerk had called him and ask him to attend because she had had complaints that she or the commission couldn't answer. Mr. Lyle first commented that the city sewer system seemed to be working fairly well. He ask those in attendance to please pass the word to their neighbors, if they see a red flashing light or hear an alarm from the pumping stations. to contact the Warren Co. Sewer District immediately. He added that by the end of 1996 remote radio systems would be in place to alert the District of problems, but until then the help of citizens was needed. Mr. Varner then ask Mr. Lyle if he had an answer to his water pressure problems. Mr. Lyle said some of his employees had placed a recording sensor on Mr. Varner's meter and it was measuring around 40# of pressure most of the time and this was the maximum that the tank that supplies the area will allow. Mr. Varner said at times he recorded pumping 12 gallons of water a minute and other times it was 9 gallons per minute. Mr. Lyle said perhaps he had galvanized pipes that had become corroded and wasn't allowing the water to flow as it should. Mr. Varner said 'is 40# of pressure all the houses in the area can receive. Mr. Lyle replied that was all the current supply tank for the area, located at Hays, would supply. Joe Madison wondered if other large commercial users moved into the area, would the residence suffer a big loss of pressure. Mr. Lyle said no, they could then open the valve at the tank to release more water. Mr. Madison said he would like to have a garden and raise flowers and water his lawn, but the cost of the water as well as the sewer wouldn't allow him to do this. He had heard there was some kind of program that would compensate individuals for this. Mr. Lyle said this was for agricultural not residential customers. Mr. Madison also wondered if the city rates were so high to help pay back the loan for the system. Mr. Lyle replied no. Mr. Madison also wondered if in the future, there was other systems installed in the county, would the city rates again rise to help pay for this system or perhaps more systems in the future. Mr. Lyle said he couldn't answer this. Mayor Gilley told Mr. Lyle that the owners of a building at the corner of Rumsey and Main were attempting to sell the property there and couldn't according to them, because of the odor from the sewer. Mr. Lyle agreed to check into this.

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

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____
JAMES R. GILLEY, MAYOR DOROTHY J. NEAL, CITY CLERK