

**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

All Members Present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey, Commissioner Varner, Commissioner Pierce, Commissioner David Stiffey

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Absent: City Clerk Debbie Brewer

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
All present recited the Pledge to Allegiance  
Mayor Higginbotham welcomed all of the special guests in attendance at the meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (January 27, 2014)  
The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (January 2014)  
Report was approved by acclimation

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Natural Gas Franchise Ordinance**

Mayor Higginbotham stated that with no objections he was going to move straight to the new business due to the fact there was a special guest here just for this purpose.

The Mayor explained what this ordinance was and included and then read the Ordinance. After the Mayor was finished reading the Ordinance, Commissioner Varner motioned to pass the new Ordinance and Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey seconded the motion.

At this time the Mayor opened the floor for questions and discussion. He directed all questions to Don Varner, special guest and representative from Atmos Energy. Sherry Higginbotham asked, tongue in cheek, if prices for gas would go up. Don explained that he did not expect it to due to all the oil in Kentucky but that it was possible based on the weather.

Commissioner Varner asked if there were any current projects to get natural gas to the parts of the city that don't currently have them at a reasonable price. Don explained that they look at one site at a time to add natural gas but he does not know of any current projects. The Mayor mentioned that Commissioner Varner has natural gas but the new subdivision which is close by does not. Commissioner Varner explained that he asked due to the new franchise and that if the franchise is passed it should be looked into. Don stated that he would address this and look into it further. Don also stated that he has not personally spoken to the contractor of the subdivision but that it may be the contractors' prerogative to not have gas only electricity.

The first reading of the new franchise Ordinance was Aye all members present, so the motion was passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner L. Stiffey reported that he needed gravel laid but not at this time due to weather.

Commissioner Pierce stated to Commissioner L. Stiffey that the street sign at Vincent Street needed repairs and Commissioner L. Stiffey explained that he had not seen it but that all streets signs are currently being worked on.

Commissioner L. Stiffey stated that he had nothing further to report at this time.

### **Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report**

Commissioner Varner read the Police Report for the Month. He then stated that the Chief and Assistant Chief will be going into training soon and the city will have to rely on other forces during that time.

At this time Commissioner Varner stated that the city has been receiving grants and most recently received a Match Grant. He then asked Assistant Chief of Police, Andrew Stidham, to come up to help show and explain the new equipment that has been purchased for the police force with this grant.

The first thing Assistant Chief Stidham showed was a dash cam. He explained what all the dash cam does for the police force and why it was purchased. Commissioner Varner added that it could be dismantled from their vehicles and used to record crime scenes which they currently had no visual way of doing.

Assistant Chief Stidham then showed the new baton light that was purchased with the grant and all of the aspects that it could be used for.

Commissioner Varner then explained that there were two of each purchased and that the Match Grant paid for one of each and the City matched the price for the other of each.

Chief Suoy was asked if he had anything to add to the report at this time. The Chief had great things to say about the Assistant Chief but had nothing else to report at this time.

At this time Commissioner Varner introduced the intern that has been working with the City Police officers.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Pierce stated that he had plans to put down more new gravel due to the fact that many ruts have been made in the gravel that has recently been laid. He has blocked off the areas with ruts but plans to have two more loads laid followed by two more dense loads at a later time.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner David Stiffey stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**150 W. Third Street**

Mayor Higginbotham asked Attorney Milliken for updates on this subject. Attorney Milliken stated that he thought the matter needed to be discussed in closed Executive Session. Mayor Higginbotham moved to go to Executive Session. Commissioner L. Stiffey seconded the motion and the matter was taken to Executive Session from 7:25PM to 7:45PM.

With there being no further business to conduct after returning to the regular meeting, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*Minutes were prepared by Brittany N. Shields, sitting in for City Clerk Debbie Brewer*