

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING for WORK SESSION
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012 6:00 PM

All members were present (Commissioner Martin by phone)

Attorney Milliken was not present

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Higginbotham explained that this meeting was called to have the first “Work Session” for 2012.

Items Discussed:

Determine Department Heads:

Per the agreement of all present, the department heads and the Mayor Pro tem will stay the same for the year of 2012.

Discuss what to do with the Library building:

Try to contact the new owners of the old restaurant next to the Library building and find out what they plan to do about the condition of the property. It was also brought up that we could have the Building Inspector to inspect the building and if it was deemed condemnable we could have it torn down. We would need to talk with the City Attorney to make sure about the legalities should we decide to take this action. It was also brought up that a local business has shown interest in renting the old Library building. As governments must sell publically owned real estate thru an auction, it was stated that we need to research the value of the Library to get an appropriate appraisal before we decide to put it on the market..

Discuss what to do with the old City Hall building:

Mayor Higginbotham suggested that one possible use for the old City Hall building would be to use it for additional storage. Commissioner Varner asked if we should consider renting it out at a reasonable lower cost if someone was interested in renting it. In addition the renter would be responsible for all costs of the maintenance for the building as well as insurance. Mayor Higginbotham and Commissioners said that was a possibility but that the City might want to be able to use the garage because it may be needed to house a City vehicle.

Discuss the purchase of property at 110 Second Street across from the new Library:

Mayor Higginbotham believes that if we were to purchase the property we would be able to alleviate the problem of water standing on Second and Cave Streets. If we purchased the land we could dig a retaining basin and that would resolve the problem. The Library construction is only exasperating the problem. Commissioner Pierce is going to talk to

the owner to see if she would be interested in selling the property and what she would want for it.

Discuss the purchase of our next police vehicle:

We have two Police Vehicle Replacement CD's. One with the bank of Edmonson County in the amount of \$9,552.91 and the one with PNC in the amount of \$13,230.65 into which we are putting \$750.00 a month this fiscal year. This gives us a total \$22,783.56 for vehicle replacement. It was discussed whether we needed a truck or an SUV.

Commissioner Stiffey said the he has talked to Sheriff Gains and the Sheriff said he would not purchase an SUV again due to the cost of maintenance and fuel. Commissioner Martin suggested we get a surplus truck and keep the cruisers. All were in agreement that if we purchase a truck it should be a four wheel drive. Commissioner Varner offered to travel to Frankfort next week for the Division of Fleet Management and Surplus Property sale to see if there was anything we might be interested in.

Discuss the interior painting of City Hall:

Mayor Higginbotham brought up the fact that City Hall has not been painted since it was erected back in 2002. There are several areas in the building that need patching and painting. Mayor Higginbotham and the City Clerk believe that the building should be painted and a satin paint should be used so the walls can be washed when needed. Mayor Higginbotham has already received one quote from Scott Shields for \$2,779.21. This included labor for fixing the cracks in all trim around windows and doors, caulking, patching places on drywall and applying 2 coats of paint per each wall. This did not include the cost of the paint. Commissioner Pierce and Commissioner Martin suggested getting Scott Cumming, a local contractor to give us a bid as well. He will contact him and have him come in and look at the job. Commissioner Stiffey stated that he would contact Able & Ready, also a local contractor, to give us a quote on the job.

Maintenance of City Hall

As per agreement in our November 28th meeting, Mayor Higginbotham stated that he thought we needed to get started on cleaning the gutters and getting the new gutter guards installed. It was agreed by all present that Mayor Higginbotham would get the job done.

Discuss Cemetery revenue push centered on Memorial Day weekend

The current balance the Cemetery Improvement Fund is \$4,157.83. The City has been depositing \$416.67 per month in this account since July and will continue to do so until the end of the fiscal year. The only other deposits we have received since the fund was started in September of 2009 total \$2,600.00. Mayor Higginbotham stated that he thought the Commissioners, City Clerk and the Cemetery Committee should man the entrances to the cemetery on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend to acquire donations for the Cemetery Improvement Fund. Each person should have a pail for the donations and there should also be someone at the Chapel to accept donations. If all entrances are covered it is more likely people will be seen. Commissioner Varner presented the idea of mailing postcards to ask for donations through out the year. Mayor Higginbotham stated that we do not have a list of persons to contact. The Clerk offered to

make up a list of local persons with family members in the Cemetery along with the help of any Commissioners that could supply information to her.

Discuss action on rural mailboxes restricting street and sidewalks
Mayor Higginbotham supplied everyone with a copy of the letter he has drafted in regards to rural mailboxes. The letter includes the section of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to Street and Sidewalk Obstructions. Commissioner Varner has supplied a list of addresses that are the worst violators of the Ordinance and will supply a copy of the letter to the Postmaster of Smiths Grove. Commissioners need to decide if they approve of the letter and when we want to send it out. This will be an agenda item for the January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Discuss the 2012-12 Budget work session to be held in April.
Mayor asked that the Commissioners give him a date in April that would be good for all members to meet. Commissioners came up with the date of April 17, 2012 as the tentative group meeting date. All Commissioners will have met with the Mayor prior to this date to discuss their respective departments.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE _____
Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk