

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 2015 4:00PM

All Members Present:

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm

Mayor Stiffey explained that this was the first meeting of new City Officials for 2015 – 2017.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the first thing on the agenda was the addition to an Invocation to the order of the meetings. He stated that he would like to start the meetings with prayer unless the commission was in disagreement. He stated that they could all take turns and maybe have a special guest from time to time to give the invocation. All members stated they were ok with the idea.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to start all meetings with an Invocation and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey. Mayor Stiffey called for a roll call vote. Ayes all members so the motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

At this time Mayor Stiffey asked his father Commissioner Stiffey to do the invocation.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Department Heads

Mayor Stiffey stated he thought the best way to address this matter was for everyone to state what department they had an interest in.

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated he would like to be in charge of the Department of Police & Public Safety. Commissioner Gary Vincent stated he had been told that he would like to be over Code Enforcement. Commissioner Stidham stated she would take whatever Mayor Stiffey needed her to and Commissioner Cannon stated he was in agreement with Commissioner Stidham.

Since none of the Commissioners have ever been a Commissioner, clerk Brewer informed all present that there must be nominations for each department head and then a roll call vote on it.

Police & Public Safety

Mayor Stiffey made the motion to appoint Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey to this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeff Cannon. Roll was called. The motion passed by a unanimous consent.

Public Works

A motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey to appoint Commissioner Teresa Stidham to this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary Vincent. Ayes all members so the motion passed by a unanimous consent.

Cemetery & Public Grounds

Mayor Stiffey made the motion to appoint Commissioner Jeff Cannon to this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Teresa Stidham. Roll was called. The motion passed by a unanimous consent.

Code & Municipal Ordinance Enforcement

Commissioner Teresa Stidham made the motion to appoint Commissioner Gary Vincent to this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Stiffey explained that this person would stand in his place should he not be able to perform his duty for any reason and this person would be put on the signature cards at the banks so they could sign checks if needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey to appoint Commissioner Gary Vincent as Mayor Pro Tem for the next two years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Teresa Stidham. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

DEPARTMENTS FOR 2015

Administration

Mayor Stiffey explained that the way he understood things this was the responsibility of himself and the clerk.

Public Works

Commissioner Stidham stated that she would like to work on the signs to get better brackets at a reasonable cost from the state. She and the mayor had previously discussed this matter and she has already spoken to someone from the state about the brackets. She will acquire two quotes for the brackets and have them at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated that he felt the city should get someone more qualified to install the signs because they were never installed correctly from the beginning.

Commissioner Stidham asked who originally installed them and Clerk Brewer informed that it was the County Road Department.

Commissioner Stidham also stated that she was looking at the budget and did not understand why the Police and Cemetery budgets were so high and hers was so low. She felt that hers should be higher.

At this time Mayor Stiffey stated that one of the first things he should have addressed was the fact that he had contacted Howards Locksmith Service to come out and change the locks on the doors. They will be here on Monday.

Police/Public Safety

Commissioner Stiffey stated that he would like to get credit cards for the police officers to purchase gas from Shell. That way there would be a record of who purchased what.

Clerk Brewer informed all present that at this time our fuel charges are made at Marathon (Chevron). Each officer must sign the receipt with his name and turn in to the clerk before the statement can be paid. Therefore, we do have a system in place to know who purchases what. She explained that the city had looked into getting a credit card in the past but each bank informed us that there would have to be separate cards for each Commissioner, Mayor, Police Officer and the Clerk. However, she would be glad to fill out an application for Shell and see what could be done.

Cemetery

Commissioner Cannon stated that at this time he had no new ideas for the cemetery. He stated that past Commissioner Terry Pierce seemed to have everything lined up well and that there wasn't anything that he knew of that needed to be addressed until mowing season.

He also stated that he has no problems with Brian Gaul and he believes he has done a good job at the cemetery.

Commissioner Cannon also stated he had no problems with what had been budgeted for his department by the previous commission.

Code Enforcement

Commissioner Vincent stated that one of the first things he wants to address is the items on sidewalks in front of stores. He would like to write a strong ordinance with a fine for this action. He is going to check with Warren County Code Enforcement because he has been told we cannot do this because the city had turned this over to Warren County.

Clerk Brewer tried to explain to Commissioner Vincent that this was correct and that she did not know if an ordinance would be valid or not or how to take back from the County. At this time Commissioner Vincent became irate and informed clerk Brewer that he was not finished talking and she could speak once he was finished.

Commissioner Vincent then asked clerk Brewer if the Commission should start having their meetings in Bowling Green since they were in charge of Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Cannon asked clerk Brewer if she would continue with her explanation at this time.

Clerk Brewer stated that she would have to contact the Kentucky League of Cities and ask them if an ordinance could be imposed since Code Enforcement had been turned over to the County (not the City of Bowling Green) and what would have to be done to break the agreement with Warren Country and take back Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Vincent asked if clerk Brewer had a contact name for Warren County Code Enforcement to which she replied “Yes. That would be Steve Hunter”. Commissioner Vincent then stated that if Code Enforcement could be taken back he wants to set down with Counsel and write an ordinance on sidewalks and the up-keep of lots.

At this time Commissioner Cannon stated that he wanted to know if we still had Police Officers employed by the city or not. He stated he had not seen Tom in two months and had not seen Andrew in two weeks until this meeting. Commissioner Stidham stated she had seen Tom several times in the last two months and clerk Brewer informed that Officer Stidham had taken a week off when his daughter was born but that both were still employed.

Commissioner Cannon stated that he knew that Tom & Andrew were supposedly being interviewed by Western Kentucky University and to his understanding it was because they did not want to work for the new commission. He stated he did not have a personal problem with Tom or with him looking for another job, but he did not think it was fair for the city to be at Tom’s mercy either. He asked if the city had someone to take up the slack if Tom leaves and if Tom was going to give a notice.

Mayor Stiffey stated that if Chief Suoy were to get another job the city would then have to look at if they wanted to hire another part-time officer or not.

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated that he felt that the budget for the Police Department was ridiculous and he did not believe the city needed a part-time officer. If Tom should take another job he would just like to make Officer Stidham full time.

Consideration for part-time City Clerk

Mayor Stiffey stated that he was afraid he had un-necessarily concerned Clerk Brewer with this agenda item. What he wants to do is hire someone to work two (2) days a week and when Clerk Brewer is on vacation or out for some reason.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the cleaning contract with Scott Shields Construction was coming to an end and he would like for the commission to pitch in and do the cleaning. Then the money that was going for cleaning could pay for a part-time person. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjustment of City Hall operation hours

Mayor Stiffey would like to change the office hours to 9:00 – 5:00 Monday – Friday because he has had several people say that the hours were not adequate for people who work. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he would like to keep the Christmas Parade going and maybe the clerk and commission to continue to do it.

Consideration for City Legal Counsel

Commissioner Cannon stated that he and Commissioner Stiffey both felt that the Milliken’s had been counsel for the city long enough and that the commission should get new counsel.

Mayor Stiffey stated that if the city were to get new counsel it would be at least double what our current counsel charges us.

Commissioner Cannon inquired to Clerk Brewer as to how Attorney Milliken is paid, to which Clerk Brewer replied that he is paid only for the meetings he attends and any additional work he has to do such as the forced sale of properties. She also stated that Attorney Milliken only charges the city one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) an hour and usually does not charge the city if they have a short phone conversation with him.

Commissioner Vincent stated he felt that the Commission should set down with Attorney Milliken after a meeting and talk to him before anything is done. Commissioner Stidham stated she was in full agreement with him. This item was tabled until such time.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Stiffey adjourned the meeting 5:21 pm.

APPROVED _____
DAVID L STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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