

January 26, 1993 - Smiths Grove City Commission meeting - 7:00 p.m. - City Hall

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners in attendance, as well as numerous citizens.

Mayor Gilley introduced Mr. Joe Liles, Director of the Warren County Water District to give those in attendance an update as to the progress of the city sewer system. Mr. Liles said the Farmers Home loan had been approved 12/28/1992 in the amount of \$762,000.00. He added that the water company had applied for a \$200,000 grant from Farmers Home Administration but they were turned down. The total cost of the project will be \$1,740,000.00 made up from a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$750,000.00, the Farmers Home loan of \$762,000.00, tap on fees from Smiths Grove residents of \$129,000.00, and the \$100,000.00 the city would contribute. Mayor Gilley ask Mr. Liles if they knew when the proposed bid date for the project would be. Mr. Liles said they would submit all of the plans and specifications to the state by 4/15/1993, and hopes they will advertise for the bids no later than 6/1/1993. He added after this process the actual construction should start in the area of 8/1/1993 and be completed in approximately six months. Mr. Liles said that Farmers Home Administration required that the Warren County Water District obtain all of the residential and commercial hook-on fees prior to production start. Those fees are \$500.00 residential and \$1,000.00 commercial. Mr. Liles said the rates for sewer service would be \$14.56, minimum rate for 2,000 gallon usage, \$24.00 for 5,000 gallon usage, \$3.43 per one thousand gallon usage over 6,000, \$3.23 per thousand for 12,000 gallon usage, \$2.63 per 1000 gallon usage for 80,000 and \$1.83 per one thousand gallon usage for 100,000. Mayor Gilley ask Mr. Liles if there would be any provisions for the low income residents that couldn't afford the total \$500.00 at one time. Could some of this possibly be added to their water bill? Mr. Liles said through a survey the BRADD had taken regarding the income of the residences, they would decide who could afford these hook-on fees, and those who could not would be hooked on free of charge. Donald Laws ask what the time span was for actual hook up was after the hook-on fee was paid. Could a resident wait a period of a year? Mr. Liles said one of the stipulations of the Farmers Home loan was that everyone hook on immediately. Comm. Belcher said he had been approached by several residents that live in the near outlying area of the city and wanted to know if they could have access to the sewer. Mr. Liles said they could. Mr. Likes said it was the intention of the Warren County Water District to direct a letter to each home in the Smiths Grove city limits and advise them of the required \$500.00 hookup fee that was payable in advance. Mayor Gilley called for questions from those in attendance. With none to be heard, Mr. Liles said he would return to the February meeting and keep the commission and citizens informed of the progress. With no further discussion, Mayor Gilley returned to the agenda of the commission meeting.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mayor Gilley called for additions or corrections to these minutes. With none to be heard, Comm. Lacy presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Crisp. Roll call and vote - Belcher yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Crisp yes, Lacy yes.

2. Treasurer's report

The clerk reminded the commission this report was for a two months period. Mayor Gilley called for questions or discussion. Comm. Belcher wondered if the \$100,000 the city had committed towards the sewer project was on an interest bearing account. The clerk assured him it was. With no further discussion, Comm. Belcher presented a motion to accept the report as printed, seconded by Comm. Lacy. Roll call and vote - Belcher yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Crisp yes, Lacy yes.

3. Department reports

Police Department: Comm. Crisp distributed a report which Chief Montgomery had compiled of the activities of the police department. Comm. Crisp ask Chief Montgomery if he had anything to add, and he said no.

Cemetery: Commissioner Martin said the chapel at the cemetery was in desperate need of attention. She and Comm. Belcher said the roof had some shingles off and if it wasn't fixed, it would soon start to leak. They also said the chapel needed a general cleaning, interior painting. The leaves need to be raked and the shrubs in the chapel area are not trimmed properly. Ms. Jordan said there needed to be some gravel in the entrance areas of the cemetery. Mayor Gilley suggested that perhaps Magistrate Carrier would hold in that area.

Street Department: Comm. Lacy said most streets were in good condition. He also reported that the grant that the city had applied for new street signs in the whole city was about 90% complete.

4. Appointment of Planning & Zoning representative-discussion

Mayor Gilley ask for nominations for this replacement for Herbert Leopold to serve as the city's member on the planning and zoning commission. Ms. Virginia Profit ask the commission if she might address the meeting. Mayor Gilley turned the discussion to Ms. Proffitt. She said she had lived in Smiths Grove most of her life and 67 years in the same house, had been a former Mayor, former principal and truly wanted what was in the best interest of Smiths Grove. She added, in view of the proposed truck stop at the I-65 & 101 interchange, this would create considerable congestion and possible lawlessness and would not enhance the Smiths Grove area and the wellbeing of the community. She hoped the Warren Co. Fiscal Court would consider these points in their decision on the zone change. Mr. & Mrs. Byron Harper, who just recently moved on Webb Ave. from Butler Co. and his Mother, who lives on Lawson St., said they had looked at several areas before buying in Smiths Grove. One of the reasons for both their and Ms. Harpers decision was the quiet atmosphere in and around Smiths Grove. Mrs. Harper felt her children were safe playing in their yard without constant supervision and if the proposed truck stop was allowed, they would no longer feel safe. Dick Bessette said although he didn't live within the city limits, he still was concerned with what might happen to the Smiths Grove area if the proposed mega truck stop was allowed. He had been in contact with similar truck stops in the Arkansan and Memphis area, and they told him that the major problems they had were drugs and prostitution. He said he knew there were some drugs in the area but felt this would increase greatly if the truck stop were allowed. Mr. Davis said he was definitely not in favor of the truck stop. Martha McGuirk added that she wanted controlled growth in the area. Golda Walker said she was definitely against the truck stop and it made her angry that the sewer system was allowing this to happen. Mayor Gilley commented that the city sewer system had nothing with the development of the area in question, as the sewers were already there, placed by the county. Mr. Joe Roberts said the city passed a resolution in 1984 opposing a proposed project in this same area, and presented it to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He felt the commission was obligated to do this again to at least show their displeasure with the way it was handled. He added, if the city didn't do something to voice their concern, it would proceed, (the truck stop) as it stands. He said no one actually knew what was going to be built there and the proposed seller refused to say at the hearing. Mr. Johnny Tarter, son of the proposed seller, was in attendance and the commission ask him for comments. Mr. Tarter said the land had not been sold, but a proposal had been made for this property and the property across Highway 101. He said several businesses had been interested but no decision had actually been made. Mayor Gilley ask each of the commissioners their opinions. Comm. Belcher, definitely for growth as long as it is controlled and complies with the Warren Co. comprehensive Plan. Comm. Martin, she is for growth. Mayor Gilley, he is for growth, Comm. Crisp no comment until he knows more about it. Comm. Lacy, he is for growth but not for the truck stop. Mrs. Walker floored a motion that the commission at least adopt a resolution to submit to the Warren Co. Fiscal Court stating, that on behalf of the commission and the citizens, that we were not adverse to growth and change as long as it complied with the Warren County Comprehensive Plan, and that the citizens felt they should at least be allowed to know what was proposed at the sight, seconded by Comm. Belcher. Roll call and vote- Belcher yes, Gilley yes, Martin abstain, Crisp abstain, Lacy yes. Mayor Gilley said he felt it was time to return to the matter of topic and that was to hear nominations for the city's representative to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Names suggested for him to consider were, Johnnie Butler, Richard McChesney, Walter McCay Jr., Steven Dieball, Mitchell Kimble, Keith Howard and Jerry Lawson. Mayor Gilley said he would contact these individuals and report the results at the February meeting.

5. Appointment of representative for the city to the Warren Co.-Smiths Grove Library Board- discussion

Mayor Gilley pointed out that Herbert Leopold had also been the city's representative for the Library Board. He had talked with Pat Houchins, the Librarian to see who used the library frequently. She suggested, Doris Hill, James Hill, Joe Jordan and Dickie, (Eliz) Madison. He called for a motion or discussion of these names from the commission. Comm. Crisp presented a motion to appoint Elizabeth Madison, seconded by Comm. Martin, and

Comm. Lacy presented a motion; if Mrs. Madison wouldn't accept then appoint Joe Jordan, seconded by Comm. Crisp. Roll call and vote - Belcher yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Lacy yes, Crisp yes.

6. Quarterly financial statement-Smiths Grove Cemetery

Mayor Gilley ask Ms. Jordan if she had anything to add to this report, she had nothing. Comm. Belcher presented a motion the report be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote - Gilley yes, Belcher yes, Martin yes, Crisp yes, Lacy yes.

7. Other

Mayor Gilley said one other appointment held by Herb Leopold had to be filled and that was on the city's Board of Adjustments. He said Sue Edwards had agreed to act as the Chairman and Mr. Ray Lewis had been approached to fill the board. Mr. Lewis was in attendance and agreed to this appointment.

Arrow Ambulance & Wheel Chair Service had approached the commission in December of 1991 soliciting their approval for a convalescent escort service within the city. The commission had agreed to this service, but now the company had changed their name to Arrow Wheel Chair Service and some of their services and wanted the commission to approve of same. It was the unanimous opinion of the commission the representatives of this company should address the commission with the exact services of their company before they could give their approval.

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

APPROVED: _____
JAMES R. GILLEY, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
DOROTHY J. NEAL, CITY CLERK