

MINUTES

SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING MONDAY JULY 22, 2013 7:00 P.M.

All Members Present

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham recognized guest's Roland Lawrence, Dennis Priddy, John Wayne Smith, Deon Benson, Albert Rich, and Craig Taylor all members of the Smiths Grove Lion's Club, Gerald Brown, Diana & Martha Stiffey, Buddy Marr, William Parsley, Diana Varner and Sherry Higginbotham.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (June 24, 2013)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (June, 2013)

Report was approved by acclimation

Public Works Report

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Pierce asked if we were still planning on upgrading the lights for the Christmas Parade. Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated he did not know anything about this matter. Mayor Higginbotham replied that we had discussed this last year and that yes we still needed to do so. Commissioner Pierce stated he would get some information on the cost and report back next month.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Varner read the Activity Report for the Month of June 2013.

Commissioner Varner reported that our new Part-Time Police Officer, Andrew Stidham, has been doing well at Academy.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that the cemetery is still looking good and that Mr. Gaul is doing a great job.

Commissioner Pierce has contacted two (2) electrical contractors in regards to the exposed wiring and switching the entrance lights from gas to electric. He is still awaiting the reply of one of the contractors. He has also contacted Wolf Plumbing to get a bid for replacing the Cemetery water hydrant. He has also hired Brian Gaul to move the large lime stone rocks at the back of the cemetery. He approved the price of forty (\$40) per hour with a maximum of ten (10) hours work for the job.

Commissioner David Stiffey inquired as to where we stand on getting the cemetery surveyed. Mayor Higginbotham informed all present that we are still waiting on Anderson Engineering to contact us to sign a letter of agreement. Also he was going to contact Pete Jones about some additional acreage to be deeded to the Cemetery but has not done so yet..

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner David Stiffey stated that at this time there is nothing new to report however, he would like for the commission to start addressing the sale of 510 Cave. With the agreement of the commission, Mayor Higginbotham stated he will start contacting Auctioneers and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner David Stiffey stated he wished there was a stricter way of enforcing Code Enforcement since he is not able to meet with Mr. Manning of Warren County on a regular basis any more. Attorney Milliken stated that we could continue to clean properties ourselves and file liens however that will get costly and get the city in the situation where they are maintaining personal property. Mention was made of bring the Code Enforcement back to the city, but Mayor Higginbotham expressed his opinion that we in the past had been less efficient than the county.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Lien on 150 Third Street

A motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to allow Attorney Milliken to proceed with filing legal paperwork to force foreclosure of the lien. The motion was second by commissioner David Stiffey. Ayes all members, so the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of a contract between the City of Smiths Grove and the Lions Club of Smiths Grove resulting in the deeding of the Lions Club property to the City.

At this time John Wayne Smith of the Lion's Club took the floor. Mr. Smith stated that the Lion's Club has served the community for many years. In the past they have raised funds by having two Pancake Breakfasts, Thanksgiving Dinners, Auctions, and of course the Annual

Horse Show. Unfortunately, over the years things have changed and there is not enough participation so they are down to only the Pancake Breakfasts and the Horse Show.

The proceeds from these fund raisers has always gone to help the community in ways such as the used glasses program, aid to the Lions Eye Foundation along with helping families in need. Mr. Smith pointed out that the benches that are on Main Street and in the City Hall Park were donated to the city a few years back, and many other Community Service projects. Unfortunately, now they have to put most of their funds back into paying for the property taxes, insurance and utilities for the Lions Club building and are not able to help the community the way they would like.

Back in 1969 when the property on 424 Wayne Street was deeded to the Lions Club it was stipulated that if the Lions Club ever were to disband or no longer be a civic club the Lions Club building and property would be deeded over to the City of Smiths Grove.

At this time the Lion's Club has no intentions of disbanding but they would like to have the property deeded over to the City of Smiths Grove with an agreement with the City that would allow them continued use of the building for their regular meeting and other club functions with the property being the responsibility of the city. This would allow the Lions Club to be able to once again use their proceeds to help the community.

During the discussion several Commissioners questioned the wisdom of the contract and some citizens directly opposed the city taking over the building as it would be a direct expense to the city that might result in increased taxes.

Since some of the Commissioners had questions regarding this contract with the Lions Club the matter was tabled at this time and a suggestion was made that a called meeting be held to further consider this matter.

Choosing the Firm to do 2012-2013 Audit

In the past years Smiths Grove has used Gilbert & Gilbert, Glasgow, to do the required annual Audit. For our 2009-2010 Audit they charged us \$8,215.00 plus \$160.37 to do worksheets and cemetery items. For 2010-2011 audit they charged us \$7,658.00 plus \$160.37 and for our 2011-2012 audit they charged us \$7,400.00. We did not get the bill for our 2011-2012 audit until June of this year.

This year we decided to get quotes from some other CPA firms to see what they would charge us to do our 2012-2013 audit. We contacted two and received one quote from Diane J. Moats, CPA, Smiths Grove. Ms. Moats has prepared the audit for the City of Oakland and the City of Woodburn in the past and has the Certification and qualifications to do City audits. Mrs. Moats quote was \$7,000 or four hundred (\$400) less than we paid last year to Gilbert & Gilbert.

Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to accept Ms. Moats quote and have her prepare our audit this year. The motion was second by Commissioner David Stiffey. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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