

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY JULY 25, 2011 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Martin, and Commissioner Pierce.

Members Absent: Commissioner Varner had surgery on his broken foot earlier in the day and was unable to be there. Commissioner Stiffey was unable to be there.

City Attorney Wes Milliken was not in attendance.

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham welcomed all special guests in attendance at the meeting. Among the special guests in attendance were Steve Hunter, Rachell Hetzler, Marshall Robertson and Jonathan Britt all members of the City County Planning Commission of Warren County.

The members of the City County Planning Commission were here to discuss the Ordinance regarding the requirements for signs (mainly LED signs) and billboards in Warren County; along with the Comprehensive Plan for Future Land Use. The County is supposed to vote on the Comprehensive Plan August 12, 2011 and the final reading will be September 24, 2011. Smiths Grove will have to have to vote and accept or reject before the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. A special meeting of the Smiths Grove Commission will be scheduled between August 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (June 27, 2011)

Minutes were approved by acclimation per Mayor Higginbotham

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (June, 2011)

Report was approved by unanimous consent.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Varner was absent so Mayor Higginbotham informed us that Commissioner Varner is in the process of acquiring bids for the road work and that they are discussing with Magistrate Hunt to see if we may be able to get help from the county as well.

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

Commissioner Martin read the police report for June, 2011. Officer Hollis informed us that he has taken his 40 hour re-certification and Chief Suoy is in training this week.

#### Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce updated us that he is looking into how to better secure the garbage cans in the cemetery. He also informed us that Sanders Tree Service will resume cutting the trees the first or second week of September and will have the job completed by the end of the year.

#### Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Stiffey was absent but he and Commissioner Pierce had gone out to look at several properties in the past weeks. He stated that there are several sidewalks that have low hanging limbs or shrubs blocking them and wanted to know what we could do about this problem. It was discussed that maybe the City Clerk could send them notices that they need to correct this problem or, that we discuss with the City Attorney as to what we can do legally

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Christmas Parade Report

Commissioner Martin said he had spoken to the people that make the video of the parade and that all is on schedule for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Cemetery Committee

Mayor Higginbotham informed that the committee had finished the recommended Resolution 05-11 and that it was up for approval tonight. The next Cemetery Committee meeting will be in September at the cemetery; at which time the committee will decide where the best places are to plant trees and shrubs. He hopes that by that time the new roads in the cemetery will be cut to make it easier to decide.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Second Reading of Ordinance #11-009 530.00

An ordinance to repeal Ordinance #07-01 530.00 which required an unloading license of \$20.00 per year for doing business in Smiths Grove

Mayor Higginbotham moved to approve, Commissioner Martin seconded Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

#### Second Reading of Ordinance #11-007-630.00

An ordinance to incorporate agreements made by the Cemetery Committee i.e.: Increase cemetery plots to \$500 each; repeal ordinance 06-01 630.00 which increased the plot price to \$375; repeal Ordinance 77-2 which required a \$10 per plot per year maintenance fee be billed on all plot owners and repeal Ordinance #82-1 650.1 which required a \$150 fee for grave openings.

Mayor Higginbotham moved to approve, Commissioner Pierce seconded Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The next item on the agenda was the Clerks Salary. Mayor Higginbotham moved this is a personnel issue and needs to go into closed session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Closed session approximately at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Higginbotham opened the meeting back up at approximately 8:08 p.m. Mayor Higginbotham moved to accept clerk's salary. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Ayes: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to hire Raymond (Fred) Wurst as the Cemetery Assistant at the amount of \$150.00 per month. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Resolution 5-11 a Resolution setting up rules and regulations for the City of Smiths Grove Cemetery

Moved by Mayor Higginbotham to accept the Resolution and was second by Commissioner Martin. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried

The final item on the agenda was the vote to accept Earl Bishops bid of \$3,000 to repair monuments in 4 sections of the cemetery. Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce and second by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Commissioner Pierce had one final item he wanted to discuss. He suggested that the Commission do a City Wide Neighborhood Stroll like the city of Bowling Green does. This would cover a 4 block area and would give the citizens of Smiths Grove a chance to talk to the members. Commissioner Pierce would like for the first one to be in the Month of August and the Clerk to coordinate.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:21p.m.

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

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ July 25, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk