

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY JULY 28, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

All Members Present

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.  
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham informed all present that the first thing he wanted to address was a walk-in item that came from the Office of the Secretary of State. He had received a letter today that stated "Pursuant to the Municipal Reclassification Reform Act, House Bill 331 (Regular Session 2014), which is codified at KRS 81.005, cities must file written notice of reclassification with the office of the Secretary of State before January 1, 2015."

With House Bill 331 there will no longer be any cities classified at 2-6. There will only be First Class and Home Rule Class. Smiths Grove was classified as a class 5 in the past and now we will be a Home Rule Class; therefore, a Resolution must be done stating the reclassification and repealing the old Resolution.

At this time Mayor Higginbotham read the new Resolution (Number 2-14). After reading the resolution Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to accept the resolution and the motion was second by Commissioner Varner. Roll was called and the motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (June 23, 2014)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (June, 2014)

Report was approved by acclamation

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

Commissioner Varner read the Police Report for the month of June.

At this time Commissioner Varner asked Assistant Chief Stidam to please come up and speak to the Committee in regards to items happening in the city which our police are on top of.

Assistant Chief Stidham stated that there has been some reports of vandalism and egging of vehicles in the city. He and Chief Suoy are keeping an eye on a couple of groups of youth they have seen out and about at night.

Assistant Chief Stidam stated that he and Chief Suoy would like to have Community Based Policing and asked that residents please let them know if they saw anything that looked suspicious. He also reminded everyone that the curfew hours are 10:00 pm Sunday – Thursday and 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday for minors.

Commissioner Varner stated that he has asked the Chief to beef up and stagger the patrol hours so that the shifts are not so routine.

Commissioner Pierce inquired as to if they were doing any day time Patrols to which Commissioner Varner replied that they had just started doing some last week and would continue to do so. Commissioner Pierce asked if they would please address the problem of people parking on the sidewalks during the day.

At this time Commissioner David Stiffey asked Commissioner Varner if he had heard anything from Oakland yet. Commissioner Varner replied that he has not gotten the letter sent to Mayor Mansfield yet but would do so this week. He apologized but stated he has had several family matters going on and has not had a chance to do so yet.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated that he had requested a current figure from Clerk Brewer for the amount in the Street fund and she had given him a figure of twenty-five thousand three hundred thirty nine dollars and twelve cents (\$25,339.12). He also stated he wants to spend this amount to repair streets. He stated he would like to know what streets the money should be spent on. He also wants to work on the alleys.

Commissioner Pierce stated that it would be hard to say right off the top of their heads which one was the worse. He suggested that everyone take a look at the streets and report back at next month's meeting which one they thought needed it the worse. This would also give time to get feedback from the residents.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Pierce stated that Brian Gaul is not going to mow out at the cemetery until we get some more rain. Also, he has contacted one electrician to get a quote on the light and is looking for two more to get quotes from.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Stiffey stated that the dry weather has helped with some of the problems however, there are still several out there.

He also reported that he had Brian Gaul bush hog the property located at 7385 Hedge Street. Clerk Brewer had sent them a certified letter back in June regarding this property but they never picked it up and the letter was returned to us.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Aging Committee**

No report.

### **Christmas Parade**

Ex-Commissioner Porter Martin reported that he has been working on the website for the applications and it should be turned on sometime in October. Also, this year they will be adding the statement "Weather permitting".

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **350 W. Third Street**

Attorney Milliken reported that the Warning Order Attorney's time has expired but as of yet he does not have a report. He has been out of his office for a few days but will check on it just as soon as he can.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Raises for Clerk & Police Officers**

At this time Commissioner Jessie Varner made a motion to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was second by Commissioner Terry Pierce. Ayes all. Closed session at 7:35

Commissioner Jessie Varner made a motion to go back into open session and the motion was second by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes all members. Open session at 7:35

Commissioner Varner made a motion to give the Police and Clerk an increase of one point five percent (1.5%). The motion was second by Commissioner David Stiffey. Discussion was called for.

Mrs. Connie Laws inquired as to what the salaries were of the Police & Clerk so Clerk Brewer left the room to acquire the information requested. When she returned she supplied the requested information to Mrs. Laws. There were several comments made by Mrs. Laws and Mr. Coker in regards to the clerk's salary.

Mayor Higginbotham asked that the roll be called. Commissioner Varner – YES, Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey – NO, Commissioner Pierce – YES, Commissioner David Stiffey – Yes, and Mayor Higginbotham – Yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4 – 1.

### **Financial Standing of Smiths Grove**

Questions had been raised on the financial viability of the City of Smiths Grove, i.e. some had stated that Smiths Grove was going under financially. To redress this false claim, Mayor Higginbotham passed out two pages of graphs setting out the financials for Smiths Grove the last 6 years to document that the viability was excellent and not declining. Additionally two graphs indicated that the revenues from Occupational Licenses, Cemetery contributions and Real Estate Property taxes have increased dramatically in the last three years.

Two citizens, Ms. Laws and Mr. Coker advised the Mayor that they thought they were being lectured. The Mayor assured them he was not addressing them but the whole room and Commission specifically because the innuendo had not originated from Ms. Laws or Mr. Coker. Mr. Coker left the meeting.

After the completion of the financial status report Commissioner David Stiffey advised that we had spent a lot of money on the cemetery the last three years. The Mayor agreed stating that all expenditures at the cemetery had received yes votes from the full commission. Commissioner David Stiffey also mentioned that the Commission was going to have another large bill when the cemetery survey was completed. Mayor Higginbotham agreed with him, but advised that all Commissioners agreed earlier in the year to do the survey prior to commissioning the Engineering firm to do the job. Commissioner David Stiffey agreed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

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

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

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