

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY JUNE 25, 2012 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner, Martin, Commissioner Pierce and Commissioner Stiffey

Also Present: Albert Rich of City County Planning Commission

Members Absent: Commissioner Varner

Also Absent: City Attorney Wes Milliken

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

Mayor Higginbotham welcomed special guests Bob & Marie Owens, Lawrence & Martha Stiffey, and William Graven

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (May 21, 2012)  
The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (May, 2012)  
Report was approved by acclimation

**Public Works Report**

In Commissioner Varner absence, Mayor Higginbotham reported that monies have been spent to purchase the new signs that are now on Main Street and to spray the grass in the alley ways to prepare them for future work. We will still have to have the trees and brush trimmed that are blocking the alley ways before any work may be done on them. We are also going to be looking at the roads in the city to see what needs to be paved.

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

Commissioner Martin read the Activity Report for the Month of May 2012 and Chief Suoy had no further comments on the report.

At this time Commissioner Martin asked Chief Suoy to update us on the status of the LEP Grant to purchase patrol rifle(s) through the KY Office of Homeland Security. Chief Suoy reported that we have been approved for the amount of \$2,311.00 which may allow us to purchase two rifles.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Pierce reported that Sanders Tree Service is back out at the cemetery removing the last of the trees and hopefully will be done by the end of this week.

The work on the roof at the cemetery is complete except for the fact the CMS was three (3) sheets short of the metal and have had to order it. These sheets should be in within the next week to week and a half. At this time Sherry Higginbotham stated that she had noticed that there is a bend in the fascia on the North West side. Commissioner Pierce said that he will get with CMS on this matter.

Commissioner Pierce advised that the gravel roads in the cemetery have been sprayed to kill the grass and weeds and that the tree stumps have been ground.

Mr. Phillips of Lawnpros was contacted about mowing the cemetery and all parties agreed that because of the current dry period Lawnpros would await a call from Commissioner Pierce before he mows again.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Stiffey reported that there are several properties in town that have not been corrected such as 344 Cave Street, 125 Higgins Alley and 0 Laurel. However, there are several that have been corrected such as 738 Hedge, 304 Cave Street, 127 College, 166 E. 6<sup>th</sup>, 213 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 127 Higgins, 121 Higgins and 117 S. Main.

At this time he asked Mayor Higginbotham if he had heard any more on the house at 150 Third Street. Mayor Higginbotham stated that he has not heard anything else from Attorney Milliken at this time on drafting a letter wherein the beneficial owners of that property would give the city permission to tear the house down.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports at this time

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance # 12-002 230.20 The City of Smiths Grove Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2012/2013.**

Motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham and was seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve Ordinance # 12-002 230.20 The City of Smiths Grove Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2012/20113. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried

The date of Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm has been set for the auction of the old library building, police cruiser and other items. The auction will be performed by Tarter Realty. Per Leon Tarter, the building will bring more if the awning outside is fixed and he wondered if we had contacted the insurance company to see if it would be covered under our police. The clerk placed a call to the insurance company and the adjuster was supposed to have come out on Thursday June 21, 2012 but never showed. Also, Mayor Higginbotham has contacted Ellis Interiors & Awnings regarding the cost of replacing the

awning. Steve Ellis came out on Thursday and gave us a quote of \$2,200 to replace and if we let him know by the 26<sup>th</sup> he can have replaced before the auction.

With this being said, Mayor Higginbotham made the motion that we contract Ellis Interiors and Awnings to go ahead and replace the awning at the cost of \$2,200. The motion was second by Commissioner Martin and with there being no discussion roll was called. Ayes: All members present

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Planning and Zoning Comp. Plan 2030**

Marshall Robinson did not show up so this agenda item was tabled.

### **Resolution 02-12**

A Resolution to Reappoint Albert Rich to the City County Planning Commission of Warren County.

Mayor Higginbotham talked to the Planning Commission and Mr. Rich has only missed 2 meetings since his first induction in November 2005 and they are very pleased with him.

With this being said Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to reappoint Albert Rich to the City County Planning Commission of Warren County. Motion was second by Commissioner Martin and the mayor asked for any discussion. At this time Commissioner Pierce asked Mr. Rich doesn't attend our monthly meetings and update us on what is going on. Mr. Rich replied that since his tenure there has not been a zoning issue that affected Smiths Grove. With there being no other discussion a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 3 to 1.

### **Resolution 03-12**

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor/City Commission to purchase a patrol rifle(s) through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by KOHS to facilitate and administer the project and to act as the authorized correspondent for this project.

Motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to accept Resolution 03-12 and the motion was second by Commissioner Pierce. Ayes: all members present. Motion was passed.

### **Parking on First Street**

Mayor Higginbotham presented an aerial picture of First Street which outlined the pathway of the original street. According to the outline, persons currently parking on First Street are taking up at least half of the actual road. The mayor proposed that the city stripe four (4) or five (5) parallel parking spaces on the side of the street where M&J Contractors and Joe Jordan's building are located but not allowing parking from the Anderson Engineering building to the stop sign. Then on the side where the old City Hall building is located stripe four (4) or five (5) diagonal parking spaces but would have to

allow twelve and one-half feet (12 ½) from the fire hydrant. Commissioner Pierce had drawn up a similar diagram and agreed with the mayor's findings.

Motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to order two (2) no parking from here to corner signs and to hire someone to stripe First Street for four (4) parallel parking spaces and four (4) diagonal parking spaces. Motion was second by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes: all members present. Motion passed.

### **Water Problems on Laurel**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Owens, owners of Building Blocks Child Care, were present to discuss the mater however; there was no one present from the County to represent them.

Mr. Owens supplied past pictures of water standing on his property and claimed he had lost over nineteen hundred dollars (\$1,900) worth of mulch due to this problem. He is required by the state to have mulch in the playground area of his property. Mr. & Mrs. Owens claim that they have had this problem for the eighteen (18) years they have owned the property and that several years ago there was a drain in front of the fire department that used to help alleviate the problem but at some time the drain was filled with concrete and paved over by the county or someone.

The Owens's feel that the city should step in and do something about the water problem because they feel most of the water runoff comes from the city streets. Mayor Higginbotham stated that he did not see how the City could be responsible as the only thing owned by the city in the area was the easement for Laurel Street. Commissioner Pierce stated that he knew for a fact that since the addition to the fire department probably ninety eight percent (98%) of the water runoff comes from the fire department.

The mayor is to contact the county and reschedule for next month.

At this time Commissioner Pierce said he would like to add something that he left off during the Cemetery Report. He reported that he would like to get a bid for dozer work on the piles of dirt out at the cemetery. Mayor Higginbotham stated that Brian Gaul has stated interest in doing the job.

### **Raises for City Employees**

Mayor Higginbotham stated that as long as we kept the raises that same for each employee we would not have to go into closed session and he would like to keep it that way. All were in agreement.

Commissioner Pierce stated that he would like to have a yearly Cost of Living increase of three percent (3%) each year for City Employees. Commissioner Martin disagreed and stated that he thought raises should be done on a merit basis. Mayor Higginbotham stated that for this year he thought there should be a five percent (5%) across the board for all City Employees and made a motion to grant this for the Fiscal Year 2013 starting July 1, 2012. Motion was second by Commissioner Martin. Ayes: all members present. Motion passed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

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

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk