

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL ROAD AID HEARING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY MAY 21, 2012 6:30 P.M.

Members present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Varner, Commissioner Pierce and Commissioner Stiffey.

Members Absent: Commissioner Martin

Also present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Mayor Higginbotham informed all present that this was the annual Municipal Road Aid Hearing, and then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Varner.

Commissioner Varner explained that the Municipal Road Aid Hearing was to explain how the City receives money for the Municipal Road Aid Fund, and to hear from citizens on where road work was needed and what he anticipates for the Fiscal Year budget 2012-2013 year.

Commissioner Varner anticipates that we should receive approximately \$19,000 to \$21,000 for the Fiscal Year budget 2012-2013 year. He also stated that for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 year we have patched the streets through out the city and have placed the new required signs down Main Street.

Commissioner Varner wished to thank Johnny's Texaco, Superior Hardware, Commissioner Pierce, Matt Brewer, Magistrate Tommy Hunt and Judge Mike Buchanon for their help with achieving everything we have accomplished this year.

There were no further questions so the meeting was recessed at 6:42 pm until the Regular Commission meeting at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY MAY 21, 2012 7:00 P.M.

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Martin

Also Present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (April 23, 2012)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

REPORTS

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

Public Works Report

Commissioner Varner reported that all the old signs down Main Street have been replaced with the new ones that are required. He is not sure when we will begin to replace the others or what size they will be at this time.

Commissioner Varner thanked Commissioner Pierce for his help but stated that he had removed three (3) signs in the city that belonged to the county and those signs would need to be replaced as soon as possible.

At this time Commissioner Varner asked that the clerk send a letter to 241 Main Street asking that they cut back the tree that is blocking the stop sign as well as a letter to 205 Main Street asking that they trim back the tree covering the Main & Mill Street sign.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

In Commissioner Martin's absence Mayor Higginbotham read the Activity Report for the Month of April 2012.

At this time he asked Chief Suoy to update us on the status of the new cruiser. Chief Suoy stated that the lights have been installed and he was waiting on Econo Signs to get the new decals made.

He also stated that all the lights and anything relating to the police, except the decals, have been removed from unit 702 and that he would be taking it on Tuesday to have the decals removed.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that he has talked to Sanders Tree Service and they will have the last tree removed before the 30th of June.

CMS Roofing was not able to get the roofing material thru their normal vendor and this is what has been holding the job up. They are ordering it from Super Supply who can get the type he and Commissioner Stiffey are wanting.

Able & Ready have not started the painting yet because they are waiting on the roof to be finished so it will not mess up their paint job.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that there are still several properties in town that have not been mown one of which is the property located at 577 South Main Street belonging to Bud Greenup Realty and one house on Higgins Alley.

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 had talked to Mr. Hunter who had given him the contact name and phone number but that he would like for Attorney Milliken to type up a legal document for them to sign.

Mayor Higginbotham also stated that he has contacted Paul Sexton in regards to the mowing at the Meadows.

Commissioner Stiffey then asked if the city could not take upon its self to cut trees and bushes that were in the way of the sidewalk and leave for the residents to clean up. Attorney Milliken stated that the city would be taking a large risk on getting sued if they were to get on personal property and it would be best to let County Code Enforcement to handle it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Council

Commissioner Varner stated that the meeting was held on May 16, 2012 at the BRADD office. The main announcements were that the Elder Abuse Recognition Event will take place on June 8th in Lexington and the Healthy Aging Conference will take place on May 23rd at the Carroll Knicely Center.

Commissioner Varner stated that he wanted to impress the importance of people letting him know what was needed in our area and that people should take advantage of the things that are available through the Aging Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Sell of old police cruiser #702

Per Chief Suoy, the old cruiser will be completely stripped of all police items by the end of the week and will be ready to sell. The cruiser will be sold at auction along with the old library building and some other things. Commissioner Pierce is to get a list of items to be sold together.

Mayor Higginbotham was informed by KLC that the city can hire any auctioneer that they chose because it is a regular professional service. The mayor believes we should contact several auctioneers to see who will give the city the best price to do it.

At this time the Mayor asked what the Commissioners thought should be done with the old City Hall building. Commissioner Pierce wants to keep and use the whole building strictly for storage and that we should sell the storage building behind the current City Hall. Mayor Higginbotham stated he felt we should keep the old City Hall building but that he did not think that the city should take a financial hit on the building. He felt it would be best for the city to rent it to have some income. He also stated that he did not think we should sell the storage building in back of City Hall.

Commissioner Pierce stated that First Street was not large enough for parking to be allowed on the street and therefore he did not feel that the old City Hall building should be rented out. Commissioner Varner stated that we could ban all street parking on First Street but then where would people park for the businesses that were on First Street. Mayor Higginbotham informed everyone present that this matter has been a problem for the city since back in 1930s.

This item is tabled until further notice.

Suit on property located at 510 Cave:

City Attorney Milliken reported that he has received a response from 2 or 3 of the lien holders but has not received anything from the property owner. Mr. Milliken now believes he may have to get a Warning Order Attorney involved. He stated that he could pay the Sheriff in Brandenburg to serve the property owner and the cost would be a lesser amount than the Warning Order Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Higginbotham read the Mayor's Budget Message
First Reading of Ordinance # 12-002 230.20 The City of Smiths Grove Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2012/2013.

Motion was made by Commissioner Varner and was seconded by Mayor Higginbotham 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

Dog Leash Law

Commissioner Pierce stated that he has had two (2) complaints regarding loose dogs on Laurel. He contacted the Warren County Animal Control who told the owners of the dogs they had to chain them up.

Commissioner Pierce suggested that the city consider a leash law. Mayor Higginbotham told him it was a good idea but that the city did not have the personnel to address the issue or complaints. He then asked Chief Suoy his opinion on the matter. Chief Suoy stated that he agreed with the mayor that we had no equipment or personnel to address the complaints that would arise and he felt it best to let Animal Control handle animal problems.

Commissioner Pierce stated that he believed we should have someone from Animal Control at our next meeting.

Parking on First Street

With this matter having been previously discussed, Mayor Higginbotham suggested that we have the business owners and residents of the properties on First Street at our next meeting.

Mowing of old City Hall Grounds

Mayor Higginbotham suggested that we get Riddles Lawn Care that mows City Hall to mow for a nominal charge. This is necessitated because Dr. Thomas' moving out of those facilities. All Commissioners present agreed.

Commissioner Pierce had driven the 1995 pickup with 75,000 miles, 2 door, full size, V8 engine to the meeting which owner wants to sell for \$4,000. He asked if the clerk had checked on insurance and she stated that she had and had given the figure to the mayor. She could not remember the exact amount but thought it was around \$800.00. Mayor Higginbotham did not remember what he had done with the figure and the clerk will once again contact KLC for a quote. However, Mayor Higginbotham and Commissioner Varner are still against the purchase of a truck.

This item tabled once again until the next meeting.

At this time Anthony Stidham asked about changing the direction of the stop signs at the intersections of Lawson and Witherspoon. Commissioner Varner said he would check into the matter, but the signs could easily be changed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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