

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Smiths Grove Municipal Center**  
**November 25, 2002**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioners Cooke, Martin, and Varner in attendance. There was a quorum present.

**AGENDA**

Mayor McCay introduced a motion to convene in closed session in order to discuss litigation pending against the City, in accordance with KRS 61.810(1)(b). Commissioner Varner seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, and Martin yes. Commissioner Pierce arrived while the closed session was in progress.

Mayor McCay moved that the Commission reconvene in open session, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes.

The open session continued at 7:20 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Varner, Mayor McCay introduced special guests Mr. Kevin Brooks, Attorney, and David Gilbert, of Gilbert and Gilbert, CPA's. The Mayor congratulated Mayor-elect James Gilley and Commissioner-elect Steve Watt.

The 2001-02 audit report was presented by David Gilbert. Of six prior year audit findings, five have been resolved. The unresolved finding is that of all City accounting activities being performed by one individual, the City Clerk, which will likely remain unresolved, due to the size of the City. Of two audit findings for the fiscal year ended June 30,2002, one has been addressed and new methods of record keeping should preclude similar findings in the future. The unresolved finding is the same as that of the prior year. Mayor McCay asked for questions. There being none, he thanked Mr. Gilbert and his staff for their invaluable assistance during the past few months, Copies of the audit are available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Smiths Grove Municipal Center, during regular business hours.

The open house/ribbon cutting for the new Municipal Center was held in lieu of a regular meeting in October. The Commissioners had opportunity to review in advance the minutes of the September 23 regular meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the motion to accept the minutes was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Varner. With no discussion or questions on the motion, the roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes.

The Commissioners also had prior opportunity to review the Treasurer's Reports for September and October. Mayor McCay made a few comments comparing the assets and the liabilities of the City. He also compared the current financial strength of the City to that of the 1998-99 fiscal year. Even with the debt incurred to build the new Municipal Center, the City could pay that debt today and still have a balance in funds of approximately \$350,500, which is virtually the balance which existed at the beginning of the current administration. The City enjoys excellent financial strength, even considering new sidewalks, the building, and other accomplishments. Commissioner Martin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Commissioner Varner. With no discussion on the motion, the roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes.

The first reading of Ordinance 02-09 was held. A motion to conduct a straw vote was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Varner. The roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes.

The first reading of Ordinance 02-10 was held and a straw vote taken as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, and Pierce yes. Mayor McCay announced that a special called meeting will be held December 3 at 6:15 p.m. in order to conduct the second reading of the ordinances.

Resolution 02-2 was read and discussed. Commissioner Pierce questioned the wording "in its environs" as to whether that meant there could be no tobacco products or alcohol used anywhere on the grounds of the Municipal Center. After some discussion, it was decided to strike the words "in its environs." Commissioner Pierce moved to enact the resolution with its new wording, and Commissioner Martin seconded. The roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes.

Mayor McCay addressed the need for streetlights to be installed on Main street in front of the Municipal Center and near the corner of Church Alley and Sixth Street; also, for upgrading the light at Sixth and College from a 175 watt security light to a regular 400 watt streetlight. Existing poles will be used for all three lights. The new lights will add \$12.30 each per month to the City's streetlight bill, and the upgraded light will add \$8.43. The monthly bill for streetlights will increase from \$619.21 to \$652.24. Mayor McCay moved to have the new lights installed; Commissioner Pierce seconded. There were no questions or discussion on the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes. Mayor McCay urged the future Commission to consider upgrading other lights on the secondary streets. The City Clerk was instructed to call WRECC and arrange for installation of the lights.

Mayor McCay reported that of several bids that were submitted to perform janitorial services for the Municipal Center, White Glove Inspection was by far the lowest. A discussion of the quality of their work ensued, and everyone seems to be satisfied. Commissioner Varner moved that the Commission formally hire them; seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Commissioner Pierce asked about the frequency of cleaning the light fixtures, since it is a separate item. The roll call vote was as follows: Cooke yes, Varner yes, McCay yes, Martin yes, Pierce yes. The City Clerk was instructed to call White Glove Inspection, Inc., and inform them that the contract was awarded to them.

Commissioner Varner presented a plaque to Carrie Lee Jordan for 40 years of service to the City in her capacity as cemetery sexton. She received a standing ovation from the audience.

#### **Department Reports:**

##### Streets:

Commissioner Cooke reported that two streets had been repaired. The repairs held through the recent heavy rains.

##### Police:

Commissioner Martin read the October report. Chief Sneed attended school in October and received a high score,

##### Public Health, Safety and Welfare:

Commissioner Pierce had no report on the library. He read the fire department report and stated that their new building will be complete within the next two weeks. He read a letter from Vicki and Larry Curry, parents of former fireman Eric Curry, expressing their appreciation for Eric's growth and the guidance he received while he was a Smiths Grove volunteer fireman. Commissioner Pierce stated that Eric made more runs than any of the other firemen, and that he will be missed.

Cemetery:

Commissioner Varner offered his congratulations to Mr. Gilley and Mr. Watt and thanked the City for allowing him to serve as a commissioner for the past two years. He thanked Ms. Jordan and Martha Watt for their hard work and reiterated that he found his work as a commissioner rewarding and enjoyable. He acknowledged the gift of a computer to be used to automate the cemetery records and read a letter thanking the donor, Mr. Richard Lajoie of Belcan Corporation. He then read the cemetery Treasurer's Report for July through September.

Committee Reports:

Mayor McCay has dissolved all the committees with the exception of the Christmas Parade Committee, which will be dissolved December 10. Porter Martin reported that the Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 6, despite rumors to the contrary. The tree lighting will be at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 1. Mayor McCay thanked Mr. Martin for his work with the parade and for getting the lights put up.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor McCay announced that this was the last regularly scheduled City Commission meeting over which he would be presiding. He said that he had found the last four years interesting, rewarding, and frustrating. He thanked each of the commissioners personally for their dedication and hard work and for striving for a common goal, that of ongoing progress and promotion of the City. He stated that his proudest moment as mayor was at a highly controversial meeting at which a resolution was passed supporting the Transpark, and the two commissioners who courageously voted their convictions in favor of the Transpark.

He mentioned that a price tag cannot be placed on volunteerism and named some of the people and acts that they had performed, not for their own recognition but for love for and pride in the City.

Mayor McCay voiced some of his accomplishments in order to make the point that Smiths Grove cannot be isolated but must continue good relationships with Bowling Green and Warren County. This Commission has worked tirelessly to build these relationships, and the City has benefited in money savings as well as visible assets. Although the City has experience turbulent times in the past few months, most of the problems have been resolved, and the new mayor will be able to start with a clean slate. He issued a challenge to the new administration: "The bar has been set, and you will be accountable to continue the progress that is being made." He closed his remarks by thanking the citizens and the commissioners for their support and stating that it had been a pleasure and an honor to serve as mayor.

Mayor McCay received a standing ovation by those present, and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Gerald Brown remarked that the City will benefit greatly from the zone change of the McQuirk-Haynes property and the planned addition to Ed Spear Park.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Walter J. McCay, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Phyllis Bessette, City Clerk