

**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY OCTOBER 22, 2012 7:00 P.M.**

All Members Present

Also present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

All present recited the Pledge to Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham welcomed special guest Sarah Decker of Gilbert & Gilbert

In order to keep Ms. Decker from having to stay late she was asked to give the Audit Report before regular business was attended to.

Ms. Decker reported that the City had a positive change in Net Assets for Governmental Activities of \$15,018. She also stated that, as in prior years, they had to state in their Summary of Findings “there is a lack of segregation of duties necessary for the internal control structure to exist.” However, this is common “due to the inherent size of the City” and most small cities have the same issue. Ms. Decker also stated that they did find the City’s “financial statements are free of material misstatement.”

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (September 24, 2012)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (September 2012)

Report was approved by acclimation

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Varner reported that he hopes to have all of the new street signs up within the next 10 to 14 days. He will also have the sign for Jim Burrell replaced at the same time.

Commissioner Pierce asked him if we should consider getting the large steel post to put beside of it, like other places have, so if someone did hit it they would not go far. Commissioner Varner stated that he would check into that because he thought it was a good idea.

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

Commissioner Martin read the Police Report for the Month of September. Once finished he inquired of Chief Suoy if he had any further business. Chief Suoy stated that his radar gun needed to be sent in for repair. He has contacted MPH in regards to it and that there is a minimum charge of fifty (50) to sixty (60) dollars just to examine the machine to see what needs to be repaired. At this time it was discussed as to what the cost of a new one would be and the fact that the one we have is quite old. Commissioner Stiffey made a motion that the City purchase a new unit but still have the old one repaired as a backup or one for cruiser 702. The

motion was second by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes all members so the motion passed. Chief Suoy will check around and get prices to give to Commissioner Martin.

Chief Suoy also reported that the field point ammunition that was ordered on our grant will not be in until December or March of 2013. He and the clerk reported that we had to go ahead and prepay for the ammunition in order to be able to turn all paperwork in for the grant.

At this time Commissioner Martin reported that for the last several months he has been paying for a car wash pass for the cruiser to be washed on a regular basis and that he would be presenting a bill to the City to reimburse him for the cost. Commissioner Pierce asked why the City didn't just purchase the pass and Commissioner Martin informed that it must be paid for by a credit card and the city does not have one. It was discussed and decided that the clerk should contact the bank and see about getting a credit card for the city because there have been other instances where someone else had to put things on their credit card and be reimbursed.

Commissioner Martin reported that we are still looking for an Assistant Police Chief/Part-Time Police Officer.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Pierce reported that the mowers had skipped one mowing of the cemetery this month but that right now things were looking good. He also reported that the bid from Able & Ready did include the cost of materials and that he would be contacting them to see when they were going to start the work on the chapel.

Mayor Higginbotham stated that he thinks we should get someone out to the chapel to look at disabling the heaters and labeling the breaker box correctly. It was requested that the clerk contact Donnie Poynter and see if he could do the work.

Mayor Higginbotham also stated that the peak of the chapel would be a good place to put a new replacement light for the flag. Commissioner Pierce would like to have it mounted to the utility pole but will have to contact the utility company first.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Stiffey reported that the properties on Highland and Sunset have been mown and cleaned up for now. Also, he has trimmed the willow tree at the corner of Harris and Wayne. At this time the clerk informed him that Paul Sexton had been in today and that there was a complaint regarding a tree on Highland that needs to be cut since the high winds last weekend. Originally the city thought the tree was on the homeowner's property but Mr. Sexton said that it is on the City's right of way so it is their responsibility. Commissioner Stiffey advised that he had a price from Sanders Tree Service to cut both trees and remove the stumps for \$2,575. It was the sense of the Commission that we should get another bid and if it came higher that we would go with Sanders. Commissioner Stiffey was advised by the whole Commission to implement plan.

The clerk also discussed two complaints she had received regarding a basketball goal on Highland which is actually on the homeowner's property but the actual goal faces the street and

is blocking the passage of school buses and delivery trucks. Commissioners Pierce and Stiffey stated that there are others in town beside the one on Highland. It was decided that the addresses would be collected and the clerk would send letters asking that they be removed do to the hazard they caused by children playing in the roadways.

Commissioner Pierce reported that the mattresses, windows, recliner and bed frame have been removed from the property on Laurel however, now there is garbage strewn over the bank where they left items lay. He requested that the clerk contact the owners and have them to clean this area up of debris. Also, he noticed in Sunday's paper that the property on 220 Cave is up for Master Commission sale.

### **Aging Report**

Commissioner Varner reported that Flu shots will be offered here at City Hall on November 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. He requested that everyone in attendance please let everyone they come in contact with know because he would like to have a large turnout.

### **Christmas Parade Report**

Commissioner Martin reported that the Fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. and the first committee meeting was held earlier tonight.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Status of Suit for 510 Cave**

Attorney Milliken reported that the judge has signed the paperwork and it has been sent to the Master Commissioner for sale. Mr. Milliken is not sure if they perform auctions during the winter months or not and cannot give a time line as to when the sale may be.

### **Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12-005 820.00**

An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance for Incorporated Areas of Smiths Grove, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to accept Ordinance Number 12-005 820.00 and was second by Commissioner Pierce. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

### **Bids for Steps on South Side of City Hall**

Tabled until next meeting because no bids had been received.

### **Exterior Lights for City Hall**

The Commission requested that the clerk contact Donnie Poynter and get a bid from him on the cost of replacing the lights.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **City Area Clean up, Operation Pride**

Mr. Ray Lucky did not show so this item was tabled.

**Purchase of Artificial Christmas Tree**

Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to purchase a fourteen (14) foot indoor/outdoor pre-lit Christmas tree from Display Sales for \$489 plus a minimum of \$155 for freight. The motion was second by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

At this time Commissioner Pierce addressed the fact that we need to get someone to repaint the Christmas light frames and re-wire them with LED lights. He suggested that next spring we should consider having this done. He also stated that he thought we should purchase some garland and red bows this year and hang them on the rock wall in front of City Hall before the Christmas parade. It was agreed that we would do this as long as we did not have to drill into the wall to attach the garland and bows.

**Walk In Items**

Mayor Higginbotham reported that we have received signed consent, with the help of Commissioner Pierce, from Mrs. Phyllis Bessette to open up the drywell on her property at the corner of Cave and Second Streets. A copy of this signed consent has been mailed to Robert Elrod in hopes that the work may be started soon.

**Resolution 6-12**

“A Moral Challenge” Win The War! Against Violence

Mayor Higginbotham made a motion to accept Resolution 6-12 “A Moral Challenge” Win The War! Against Violence, a resolution against bullying and violence in our city. The motion was second by Commissioner Martin. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

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

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

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