

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY OCTOBER 28, 2013 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 of Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham recognized special guests Mrs. Connie Laws, Mr. Albert Rich and Mrs. Mary Beth Conrad.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (September 23, 2013)
Minutes of Special Meeting (October 2, 2013)
Minutes of Special Meeting (October 3, 2013)
Minutes of Special Meeting (October 10, 2013)

The meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (September, 2013)
Report was approved by acclamation

Public Works Report

Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey reported that the curbs on Broadway Street have been cleaned and that he and Commissioner David Stiffey have cleaned the curbs on Main Street to Fourth Street and part of Cave Street.

At this time Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey stated that there are four (4) trees on Mill Street, also known as Smiths Grove – Oakland Road, that he feels should be removed because they could be a hazard. They are located on the street side of the property at 149 Main Street (The Court Yard Café), 122 Mill Street (Dewayne Capps property), and 14 Mill Street (Jimmy Hendrick). He has contacted Sanders Tree Service and received a quote of two thousand, two hundred and five dollars (\$2,205) to have them removed.

Mayor Higginbotham stated that he did not believe the city had the right to enter a person's property and remove the trees because they belong to the property owner and he would like to know what the city's legal position was before any action was taken.

Attorney Milliken stated that this matter had come up in the past with the Bed & Breakfast and the City took the position then that the tree was the property owner's responsibility. He will look into the legal status and report back at the next meeting.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

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

Commissioner Varner also reported that he has been in contact with Greenwood Ford in regards to the recall on the 2008 and 2011 Police Cruisers. He was told to have the cruisers brought in at our convenience and they will inspect them. If parts are needed, they will order and contact us as to when to bring the cars back.

Commissioner Varner reported that last month (September) the Health Department came out to give flu shots and there were only 18 people that came out even though we had put up flyers at the local businesses, posted it on FaceBook, and put it on our web site.

Since the turnout was so low, the Health Department said they might not be able to come back next year. So, he started trying to think of ways we could get a larger turn out and thought of having a Medical Health Fair. He has already contacted the Barren River Regional Health Department for suggestions and to see if they would be willing to help.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that he has instructed Brian Gaul to put a hold on mowing the cemetery on a weekly basis. Brian will only mow when Commissioner Pierce tells him it needs it.

Also, Brian has covered the exposed conduit that is by the main entrance (101 entrance).

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner David Stiffey started he has nothing to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Christmas Parade

Mayor Higginbotham reported that he has spoken to Porter Martin and everything is on schedule at this time. He also reported that Roger Thomas has accepted the invitation to be the Grand Marshall for the parade.

OLD BUSINESS

150 Third Street

Mayor Higginbotham stated that as per his conversation with Attorney Milliken this matter is tabled due to litigation.

Christmas Lights

The new LED lights have been ordered and have been received.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners Pay

Mayor Higginbotham started off by informing all present that this matter has not been discussed in eight years (2005). The commission would like to see an increase from eight hundred dollars (\$800) a year to twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) a year for the commissioners and the Mayor

would prefer no increase for the position of Mayor. As a matter of fact, Mayor Higginbotham would like to only receive one dollar (\$1.00) per year for his position due to tax reasons. However, that does not seem possible.

Attorney Milliken stated that he does not believe that the Mayor or Commissioners perform their duties for the money but instead for the good of the community. He stated that he believes that if you take the time they invest in their duties versus what they are paid you will find it is way less than minimum wage. He also believes the Mayor and Commissioners should think about this in the terms of pay for future Mayor and Commissioners.

Commissioner David Stiffey stated that he would like to see the Commissioners pay increased to where they would get at least one hundred dollars (\$100) per month and an increase of at least four hundred dollars (\$400) per year for the Mayor.

Mayor Higginbotham believes that the Mayor and Commissioners pay should be the same. Commissioner Pierce disagreed with this.

A motion was made by Commissioner David Stiffey to increase the Mayor and Commission pay by four hundred dollars (\$400) per year across the board. The motion was second by Commissioner Pierce. Roll Was called, Commissioner Varner – No, Commissioner Lawrence Stiffey – Yes, Commissioner Pierce – Yes, Commissioner David Stiffey – Yes, Mayor Higginbotham – No. The motion carried with a vote of 3 -2. By Kentucky law the increase in Commission and Mayor pay will become effective January 1, 2015.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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