

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 7:00 P.M.

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

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 all of the special guests in attendance at the meeting.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (August 27, 2012)
The meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.
Minutes of Special Meeting (September 12, 2012)
Commissioner Pierce brought to the attention of the clerk that he had abstained from the vote on Mr. Renfro. With the correction being made, the meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (August 2012)
Report was approved by acclamation

Public Works Report

Commissioner Varner reported that the re-paving of Third Street has been successfully completed and that the paving of Sixth Street has been completed.

Commissioner Varner stated that today he talked to the Warren County Health Department in regards to Flu Shots being offered for the community. Earlier in the day the clerk had contacted them and was told that unless the city could guarantee Thirty (30) to Thirty-Five (35) persons to be vaccinated they would not come out. Commissioner Varner advised the Commission that he would follow up on this matter.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Martin read the Police Report for the Month of August. Once finished he inquired of Chief Suoy if he had any further business. Chief Suoy stated he did not at this time.

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

Commissioner Stiffey inquired as to if anyone had been in contact with the City of Oakland and Commissioner Martin stated he would be meeting with him soon about the Christmas Parade and would ask him them.

At this time Commissioner Varner asked if we could return to the Public Works report. Commissioner Varner had contacted Ray Lackey's office in July requesting he attend our next meeting to discuss the beautification of the entrances and exits into our city. He was not able to attend the August meeting but said he would have someone here for the September meeting if he could not be here. Paul Sexton was in attendance due to that request. Mr. Sexton was not able to address some of the questions regarding Operation Pride but will pass on to Mr. Lackey to be answered.

Commissioner Varner advised the Commission that he and Mayor Higginbotham had met earlier this week with the pastor of the Baptist church to discuss projects for the youth groups at the Church. A clean up of some public areas of the city was brought up along with other 'more interesting' projects. More discussion is slated for the near future.

Mayor Higginbotham would like to hire someone to clean up the area between Wendy's and the Car Wash. Ms. Sandy Clark, Zoning Administrator with Warren County Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement, suggested getting the local churches to Adopt-A-Highway or get the Boy Scouts to do. Commissioner Pierce inquired about the use of inmates.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that after the first of the year he would like the Commission to reconsider the way payment for the mowing of the cemetery is handled. He is not content with the way the mowing is being done. Commissioner Pierce stated that the mowing and trimming is not always being done on the same day and that the areas of the cemetery that have recently been cleared are not being mown on a regular basis. Mr. Phillips has stated that he believes that he should be getting paid an additional amount to mow these areas. No one on the commission has ever agreed to additional payment.

At this time Commissioner Pierce reported that two (2) bids had been received to do the interior of the chapel. They were:

Scott Shields Construction for \$2,975.00. This amount included scaffolding, polyurethane, plastic to cover floors and walls, tape, steel wool, and stain if needed, plus labor and a 25percent (25%) discount.

Able & Ready Painting for \$575.00. This amount would cover wiping the ceiling, posts, window seals and light frames down with T.S.P., rough sand the same areas, and re-seal with "Helmans" urethane.

Commissioner Martin asked if the price from Able and Ready included all materials needed. Commissioner Pierce stated that he thought so but would contact them to make sure.

At this time Commissioner Pierce made the motion to accept the bid from Able and Ready as long as their price includes the cost of all materials. The motion was second by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes all members so the motion was passed.

Code Enforcement Report

At this time Commissioner Stiffey turned the floor over to Paul Sexton from Warren County Code Enforcement.

Mr. Sexton reported that he has sent a violation notice to 127 Sunset but has not heard from them. In regards to the two properties on Higgins Alley, one owner has paid the fine but not mown, and the other has evidently moved to Georgia and they have not been able to locate him.

At this time he felt he should explain to those present the procedure he follows regarding complaints. Once he receives a complaint he has five (5) days to inspect. He may be able to contact the owner at the time of inspection. If he does not meet them at that time he sends them a Notice of Violation Citation giving them a time frame to comply. If the owner does not comply by the date given then a per-day lien starts being accumulated.

Mayor Higginbotham reported that he and Commissioner Stiffey had attended a conference on Code Enforcement this month. At the conference they found that other cities are having the same problems that we are having. Commissioner Pierce also commented if garbage loose in a yard was a code violation. Ms. Clark, of planning and zoning, suggested that the city contact Stan Regan of Environmental Planning for help or if we thought it was a matter of a resident not having garbage pickup to contact Mr. Moe Burch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging Report

Commissioner Varner reported that the BRADD office is having a "2012 Can Do Food Drive" to get food donations.

September 2nd Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Varner, Chief Suoy, Jake Boswell of WBKO, Clerk Brewer, and family members traveled to the home of Carrie Lee Jordan to present her with three (3) proclamations and the key to the City of Smiths Grove. Commissioner Varner has also received two (2) cd's from WBKO and has presented one to Joe Jordan and the other to the Aging Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12-004 230.00

An Ordinance assessing and levying the 2011 Annual Property Tax on Real Property and Tangible Personal Property within the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky.

Commissioner Varner made a motion to accept the corrected Ordinance and the motion was second by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12-003 230.10

An Ordinance assessing and levying the 2013 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft having a situs in the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky.

A motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham to accept Ordinance 12-003 230.10 setting the Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft. The motion was second by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Status of 510 Cave

City Attorney Milliken reported that he has filed for Judgment and Motion for sale of the property. The hearing was supposed to have been today and he had prepared for the hearing however, no one else appeared in court but him. The owner, Mr. Foushee, is in default, the Commonwealth of KY did not wish to participate, and Bluegrass Cellular did not respond. The Judge did read the motion and said everything looked proper and in order so he will sign and send to the Master Commissioners office. Mayor Higginbotham asked if Attorney Milliken had any idea how long it would be before the property was auctioned off and he responded that he did not know for sure. Mayor Higginbotham requested City Attorney Milliken to give the city as much notice of any sale as the city may want to purchase the property in order to make sure it is cleaned up immediately.

At this time Commissioner Stiffey asked him what the status was on the property at 150 Third Street. Attorney Milliken stated he had received a phone call from one of the parties involved but had missed her call and had returned the call and left a message. He is now awaiting a return call from her. However, the letter he mailed to the second party involved was returned. He is hoping that the first party will be able to give him correct contact information.

Spraying for mosquitoes

Mayor Higginbotham reported that within a week of our August 27 meeting the county came out and sprayed the town to kill mosquitoes.

New road in cemetery

Mayor Higginbotham reported that the new road around Section OO has been completed.

Walk In Item

Mayor Higginbotham reported that the Lions Club is basically going broke since 80% of their dues are going to the International Lyons Club and they no longer have many members. The Lions Club owns the property located at 424 Wayne Street containing a building and three (3) acres of land that was deeded to them by Thomas Webb in 1969. In the deed it stated that if in case the Lions Club is disbanded the property reverts to the City of Smiths Grove. Attorney Milliken confirmed that if the Lyons Club no longer exists the city would receive the property and a deed would need to be drawn and signed by the Lions Club President, Dennis Priddy, and the Secretary/Treasurer, Albert Rich. The Lions Club would want a contract with the City that would allow them to use their building at no charge for their meetings and functions. Commissioner Varner stated that he could envision the building being used as a Senior Center. Even though no deal has been made Attorney Milliken will anyway proceed to prepare a deed for the turning over of the property if the Lions Club so decides. All members were in agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

First 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 Commissioner Varner to accept Ordinance Number 12-005 820.00 and was second by Commissioner Pierce. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

Steps on south side of City Hall

Mayor Higginbotham brought up the fact that several of our Commissioners has expressed the need for steps on the south side of the building, next to the entrance to the police department, leading to the front door. Mayor Higginbotham would like to get bids to have this done. Commissioner Stiffey stated he thought the bids should include filling the holes for the hand rails on the existing steps, to stop the rusting, and painting the rails. All of the Commission agreed. Commissioner Pierce will be in charge of getting the bids for this project.

Resolution 5-12

This resolution is a street paving plan for future years. It will ensure that at least one road per year will be paved if there is sufficient Municipal Road Aide monies to do so. If there is more than one road that needs work and the money is available it will be done also. Commissioner Pierce stated that he would like to include doing sidewalks as well and was informed by Commissioner Varner that Road Aide Money could not be used for that purpose. However, he was not opposed to looking into how the city could pay for additional sidewalks.

Commissioner Stiffey made the motion to accept Resolution 5-12 Street Paving Plan and the motion was second by Commissioner Varner. Ayes all members so motion passed.

Lights on exterior of City Hall building

It has been mentioned that the exterior lighting is insufficient and not working properly. The light that we have must be manually turned on and off from inside of the building and should only be done from dark to dusk. With no one here during those times the parking lot and grounds are dark. Commissioner Varner proposed that we look in to getting lights that work on a photo cell which would eliminate this problem.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stiffey to purchase lights with photo cells and have them installed and the motion was seconded by Mayor Higginbotham. Ayes all members so the motion passed.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

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