

Smiths Grove City Commission meeting - September 27, 1999-7:00 p.m. -City Hall

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all commissioners in attendance along with numerous interested citizens.

The Mayor prefaced the agenda of the meeting by stating that this was a regularly scheduled City Commission meeting, not a public forum or hearing, and would be conducted as such. He then introduced Vicki Weisshaar, the new City Clerk, and explained she had impeccable credentials and qualifications, and the city commission was pleased to have her.

AGENDA

Mayor McCay read a profile of General Dan Cherry then introduced him to the meeting. General Cherry said this was the first of a series of meetings all over the community, and introduced his assistant, Melinda Hill, Vice President of Inter Modal Transportation Authority, Inc. He said their jobs eventually would be to promote, develop and eventually manage the complex. He explained that Kentucky Trimodal Transpark stood for, air, rail, and highway. He said he was aware that everyone wanted to know why he felt the airpark was needed. In his opinion, one of the biggest reasons is the creation of numerous high paying jobs for the area. He added that most people were aware that numerous jobs have moved overseas in the past several years. He then stated that most people wanted to know where the airpark would be located. When the study first started there were seven sites under consideration. Now those are down to four, and by 12/99 there will be two sites remaining, and by 3/2000 the final site will be selected. They will consider the proximity of the location. They will need 3800 acres for the final location. Areas looked are South Union, Woodburn, Oakland-Smiths Grove and I-65 Cumberland Parkway. He felt the next question most people wanted to know was when it will be built. The expectations are to begin in the year of 2001, and the cost is still unknown. Again he added one of the big benefits would be the creation of approximately 10,000 jobs. He ended by stating that he hoped he had answered all or at least some of the questions on most peoples mind. He thanked those in attendance for their kind attention. Mayor McCay thanked General Cherry for his time and informative presentation.

Mayor McCay said before continuing with the balance of the agenda, he wanted to take the Smiths Grove Lions Club for their donation of use of their facility. He said they had been notified on a very short notice and were gracious to set up the chairs etc. to help prepare for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The commission had reviewed these minutes prior to the meeting. The Mayor called for additions or corrections to these minutes. With none to be heard, Comm. Martin presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Hardy. Roll call and vote- Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

3. Minutes of special called meeting August 19.

These minutes had also been received prior to the meeting by the commission. With no corrections or additions to be heard, Comm. Hardy presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Howard. Roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

Minutes of second special called meeting, Tuesday 9/7/99. The Mayor explained this meeting was to discuss how the hiring of the new city clerk would be handled. With no further discussion, Comm. Cooke presented a motion these minutes be accepted as printed, seconded by Comm. Hardy. Roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

4. Treasurer's report

The commission had reviewed this report prior to the meeting. With no additions or corrections to be heard, Comm. Cooke presented a motion the report be accepted as printed, seconded by Comm. Hardy. Roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

5. 1999 watercraft and vehicle tax.

Mayor McCay explained this rate was set at 20 cents per \$100.00 valuation. The rate was lowered in the past from 36 cents per \$100.00 valuation. He addressed the clerk for her opinion on this rate. She said since the rate had been lowered to the current rate, and couldn't be raised again, her opinion was it should remain as it is. Comm. Cooke then presented a motion the 1999 vehicle and watercraft rate remain at 20 cents, seconded by Comm. Martin. Roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

6. Department reports

Streets: Comm. Cooke said it was still too dry for the alleys to be graded, but they would be done prior to winter. He added that the speed limit signs requested by the police on Hedge and Laurel were installed. Joe Madison ask if there couldn't be some repair work done at the corner of Sixth and Kentucky. He said the pavement was crumbling. Comm. Cooke said he would look into it.

Police:

Comm. Martin read the monthly report prepared by the Police Chief. (attached) She then approached the commission regarding the purchase of asps, (nightsticks) for the two officers. They are small, capable of being worn on their belts, and would extend if needed. Mayor McCay wondered if there was a real need for these. Comm. Martin said it was her opinion that the city should equip the officers as best they could. The cost for both would be \$130.00 for both clubs and the holders for their belts. Chief Sneed said they liked the fact they were easily accessible if needed, where now they would have to return to the patrol car to get the current ones. With no further discussion to be heard, Comm. Martin presented a motion to purchase the two asps at a cost of \$130.00, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote Cooke yes, Martin yes, McCay yes, Hardy yes, Howard yes.

Public Safety, Health and Welfare:

Comm. Hardy ask Terry Pierce from the Smiths Grove Fire Dept. to tell those in attendance about the new tanker. Mr. Pierce said it was on display at the August meeting, and explained that it was serving the department really well. Bill Pierce said he had attempted to drive the fire truck down Fourth Street going to a fire at Billy Webb's property recently and had a very difficult time getting down the street because of the mailboxes. The Mayor said he was aware of

the problem but really didn't know the solution. He had talked to the Postmaster and he said there were no regulations regarding the placement of mailboxes in the city limits. Terry Pierce said there was a real problem within the city with street numbers. He said emergency vehicles had a real problem finding them. Mayor McCay ask Comm. Hardy to work with Bill Pierce and Terry Pierce to try to research and find a possible solution to this problem. They agreed to do so.

Cemetery:

Comm. Howard said the cemetery ground looked very good and his opinion was, the contractor was doing an excellent job. He added that Comm. Hardy and his Dad had trimmed all of the trees on the grounds, and David Stiffey had pruned the shrubs around the chapel. Numerous people commented that were very pleased with the way the cemetery is being taken care of.

Committee reports;

Planning & Zoning-Gerald Brown said he had nothing to report. Mayor McCay said he had received a letter from Alice Burke with the Planning Commission and she had informed him that the consulting firm they hired were in fact going over the city of Smiths Grove ordinances, reviewing them and will suggest updates and how to strengthen them.

Aging Services:

Dr. James Hill had no report at this time.

Beautification:

Sandra McCay reported that the Lions Club had graciously consented to purchase two benches for the rest area located near the truck stop. Mayor McCay was very pleased to learn they were going to purchase both benches.

7. Other

The Mayor said he is consistently in contact with CSX railroad regarding the city purchasing the property adjacent to city hall so the commission could continue with their plans for renovation. He added that the commission had previously voted to use Premier Net as the city's internet provider, but he had been investigating another company which would be cheaper, and in his opinion a better provider. The company is called Mindspring. The commission agreed he should pursue this.

The clerk said she would like to clarify what she felt was a misunderstanding on paying the prior Mayor's annual mileage. She said although the annual was on a fiscal year basis the mileage was paid annually. The Mayor thanked her.

With no further business to be presented a motion to adjourn was heard.

APPROVED: _____
Walter J. McCay, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Dorothy J. Nell, City Clerk