

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020 7:00PM

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Steve Roney, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner Walter (Bob) Smith, Police Chief Jason Franks, City Clerk, Nancy Howard

Absent: City Attorney Hamp Moore,
Invocation was given by Mayor Stiffey
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey recognized Debbie Richey, our newly appointed City/County Planning Commission representative.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report - June 2020 and Final Fiscal Year 2019-2020

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The Treasurers Reports were approved by 5-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that we anticipate receiving the updated Ordinance inserts from American Legal Publishing, whereby each Commissioner will update their copy of the current Ordinances. We have 6 books in total: 5 for Commission Board and one office copy. The clerks are prepared for the 2019-2020 audit and will meet with Steven Throneberry, CPA on August 17th to begin the audit process. Commissioner Marr commented that he had recently become aware of the KRS statute pertaining to cities with less than 1000 population, to execute an audit every other year (odd years). He suggested the city consider doing the audit only on those required years in order to save money for the city. There was discussion on whether it was feasible for the city to eliminate a yearly audit with comments from the Mayor and the City Clerk regarding how audit firms had responded to that same question in the past. The Audit firms expressed that the cost of an audit would not be just the year cost but would also include substantial cost for the firm revisiting all the prior year's information in order to substantiate the beginning financial information. In the long run the audit firms did not feel this was a savings for a city or for their service. It was concluded that the city would continue with yearly audits.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated that he has spoken with Scotty's regarding the paving on Vincent Street and the project is still waiting on their scheduling. Commissioner Marr said he had acquired bids from Greenwood Tree Service, Bowling Green, for the project of trimming overhanging tree limbs or bushes from city streets or sidewalks. The service bid the job at \$120 an hour with an

expectation of a crew of 4 with a bucket truck, chipper and pickup truck. The Mayor said he had requested a bid for the same project from American Tree Service who stated they would have a 3-man crew at \$275 an hour. Commissioner Marr made a motion to hire the Greenwood Tree Service for the project with a maximum cost of \$2000. The Mayor seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion by a 5-0 vote. Chief Franks added that Church Alley has bushes blocking sidewalk, but he would address that with code enforcement notices.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Smith stated that his information will be discussed with Old Business and deferred to Chief Franks for input. Chief Franks stated that the Mobile Data Computers were received and the “Toughbooks” computer installed in the Ford Explorer. An evidence processing station has been implemented in the Police Office. Speedway will be posting signs stating 3 -4-hour parking only and will be addressing the issue with trucks trying to stay overnight in their parking lot, per Chief Franks conversation with Speedway staff.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated there was nothing new to report. The Mayor asked how he viewed the recent tree trimming along the east cemetery fence and both agreed it was completed satisfactorily. The Mayor asked about the returning of marker stones that were under repair by Commissioner Buehl. Commissioner Buehl said he had one that needs a small replacement stone to affix the old stone to. Commissioner Roney stated there was another stone lying down that need’s attention. Commissioner Buehl said he would wait for cooler weather to do these repairs.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl commended Chief Franks for the communication of issues with the new Code Enforcement log and that about half of the issues are resolved. Commissioner Buehl purchased and installed 5 – metal NO LITTERING signs on roads entering the city. The cost was under \$200 with hopes that the message of not littering in Smiths Grove and the stated \$500 fine will improve the littering problem. Chief Franks added that he updated the Code Enforcement 10-Day notice form and provides the property owner with the applicable ordinance when issuing citations. He has also been cracking down on Occupational Business License compliance as he meets new mowing services or other new businesses to the city.

The Mayor stated that while there are no Committee Reports this evening, he reminds the Commission that the Smiths Grove Days Festival has been cancelled for this year and the next event to prepare for is the Christmas Parade. He suggested that the line up location be changed to be at the North Warren Elementary school area on 6th Street and the parade move from there towards Ed Spear Park. We also need to locate a new Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus for this year.

Old Business

The Mayor stated that last year the city budgeted and purchased 5 street pole Christmas decorations to replace the worn-out inventory of 25 streetlight decorations. He received a quote from Temple Display to purchase another 5 streetlight decorations and to replace the City Hall worn out reindeer display items with new Carolers display for a total of \$4148. This was budgeted and would provide the city with ½ of the streetlight decoration inventory being replaced by end of 2020. The Mayor made a motion to accept the quote to purchase these replacement decorations and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 -0.

Commissioner Smith introduced the bid information he gathered from 4 providers for security camera coverage for the Cemetery and for City Hall. The equipment includes 3 cameras at the Cemetery, 5 cameras at City Hall, recording devices, and a monitor. The lowest bid was \$4173 from Quality Service & Surveillance, LLC. A housing cabinet will be needed at the Cemetery Chapel and the cost is estimated at \$120. Commissioner Buehl commented that battery backups will be needed, and he had access to a few of these items that would be free. The Mayor asked who will do the weekly monitoring on the Cemetery equipment and Commissioner Roney said that he would do it. Chief Franks commented that with the surveillance equipment the City will need to create a policy on the upkeep, access for reviewing video information, due to the impact on legalities with the use of the information. Any surveillance at City Hall regarding the security of evidence can have impact on cases that go to court. Chief Franks asked if the on-going costs had been researched. Commissioner Smith stated this is a one-time purchase of equipment, not a monthly alarm type system. Commissioner Marr had questions as to why the system would not detect someone if triggered. Commissioner Smith said this is not a alarm system as that would be a nuisance. Commissioner Smith made a motion to purchase the surveillance system equipment from Quality Security & Surveillance at the quoted price of \$4173 and to purchase the housing cabinet for \$120. Commissioner Roney seconded the motion and the purchase was approved with 5-0 vote.

New Business

Mayor Stiffey explained that Clerk Howard has been communicating with Mrs. Beverly Britt regarding the property at 245 Fourth Street, which she inherited from her father, Amos Britt. Evidently the City of Smiths Grove acquired a piece of that property during the 1979 Community Development Project and Beverly Britt is requesting that the city provide her with a Quit Claim Deed for that property. The Mayor made a motion that we contact Beverly Britt to communicate that she can proceed with acquiring a Quit Claim Deed for this property, at her cost and no cost to the City, and that the City will sign over the property. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the Commissioners approved with a 5 -0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey stated the agenda topic of hiring Johnny Vance as a part-time police officer was dropped due to Johnny Vance contacting Chief Franks to state he no longer had interest in the position.


Mayor Stiffey introduced 2 state authorized bids received for a new Police vehicle. One quote from Crossroads of Frankfort for a 2020 Ford Explorer at \$33,586.00. Another quote from Glenn's Freedom Dodge in Lexington for a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 SSV crew cab truck for \$29,152.00. Chief Franks explained he had received negative feedback on the new Explorers from our vehicle computer equipment providers and other agencies. Both Mayor Stiffey and Chief Franks had researched other vehicle options and determined that the Dodge Ram truck was the best purchase for reliability and cost. Mayor Stiffey made the motion to purchase the 2020 Dodge Ram truck with the maximum cost of \$30,000. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5 -0. The City will contact Freedom Dodge dealer to order the truck which will not go to production until October.

Mayor Stiffey was contacted by Republic Services rep, Todd Chamberlain, to discuss our contractual agreement. Per Mr. Chamberlain, since the recycling service has been eliminated, the Republic Services has experienced an increase in tonnage volume and therefore incurred additional

costs. Republic Services will initiate an increase in cost to all residential pick-up by .45 cents per month, beginning in September 2020 through June 2021, at which time the cost will be reevaluated. The Mayor explained that the city is satisfied with the service and that the franchise has been reliable for residents. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve the Republic Services request for the .45 cent a month increase to residents. Commissioner Roney seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5-0.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE 8-26-2020
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk.