

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020 7:00PM

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Steve Roney, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner Walter (Bob) Smith, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant City Clerk, Debbie Joyner

Invocation was given by Chief Franks
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey recognized Ben Peterson, Executive Director of the City/County Planning Commission

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report - July 2020

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

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that the audit process is underway and Clerk Howard met with Steven Throneberry, CPA on August 17th. Mayor Stiffey stated he had signed the audit engagement letter. Mayor Stiffey reported that we will continue to work with Data Design, Inc. for processing of 2020 property tax bills. Mayor Stiffey reported that Clerk Howard is working hard on records retention and is making progress in the safe room cleaning out records that we are no longer required to keep. He also stated Jessie Varner had called the office to report that the Aging Council had a Zoom meeting and Mr. Varner will continue as the City's representative on that committee. Mayor Stiffey reported that all new Christmas lights were delivered and the City currently has 10 new pole lights and 15 old pole lights.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated that August has been a busy month. On August 2 there was a tree down across Lawson Street and Jimmy Cooke cleared the debris. August 11-14 Greenwood Tree Service trimmed trees and bushes from sidewalks and streets and Commissioner Marr rode with them while the work was done. Commissioner Marr stated most of what was trimmed was the responsibility of property owners. He stated the trimming needed to be done because some obstructed the view of drivers. Commissioner Marr stated we need to issue citations to property owners going forward. Commissioner Marr reported paving started last week. He reported that Vincent Street will be finished August 25 and the contractor will work on College Street in Jackson Manor after Vincent Street is completed. Commissioner Marr reported there are yards that need to be tidied up and junk vehicles that need to be moved. Commissioner Marr stated that the City needs to enforce the ordinances that are already in place that address these issues. Commissioner Marr also reported

there are some sidewalks in need of repair. Mayor Stiffey reported a section of the cemetery roadways had been paved.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Smith reported that camera systems were installed in the cemetery chapel and City Hall. Commissioner Smith stated he had purchased a cabinet, fan, and thermostat for the cameras at the cemetery. Commissioner Buehl stated he has battery backups for both camera systems and they should last 5 years. Chief Franks stated he would be glad to ride around with Commissioner Marr to check out locations that need to be cited for violations. Chief Franks reported he has developed an emergency contact sheet that he will distribute. Commissioner Marr stated Chief Franks took it upon himself to trim bushes that obstruct driver views at various intersections.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney reported the paving at the cemetery looks good and the cameras are installed. Commissioner Roney mentioned that there are several bushes that have grown into alleyways and Commissioner Marr stated that would be addressed. Mayor Stiffey reported that Brian Gaul mowed today and since we have had so much rain, the grass needs to be mowed more often.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl commended Chief Franks for his handling of code enforcement issues. Commissioner Marr recommended that Commissioner Buehl ride around and look for code enforcement violations. Mayor Stiffey stated the “No Littering” signs that were installed are making folks want to litter. Chief Franks reported that Speedway is struggling to keep employees but is trying to address littering problems as best they can. Commissioner Roney asked if the city needs to do anything about the enforcement of wearing masks in businesses in Smiths Grove. Chief Franks stated there is a hotline to call to report problems.

The Mayor reminded everyone that Mr. Jessie Varner will continue to be the City’s representative on the Aging Council. Commissioner Buehl asked if we had found a Santa for the Christmas Parade and Mayor Stiffey stated he would ask Anthony Stidham.

Old Business

None

New Business

1st Reading of 2020-002 Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance for Incorporated Areas of Smiths Grove, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mayor Stiffey deferred to Ben Peterson for highlights of the amendment. Mr. Peterson stated the two main issues addressed were how temporary signs are regulated and Airbnb or short-term rental regulations. Mr. Peterson stated no signs will be allowed in right-of-way areas and there will be a limit of 2 signs per private property. This includes political signs. Mr. Peterson stated there will now be more oversight of Airbnb rentals and necessary regulations will be enacted. Mr. Peterson also stated the balance of the other items in the ordinance are “housekeeping” issues. After discussion, Mayor Stiffey made a motion to accept this first reading of the Ordinance 2020-002 as written and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The first reading was approved by 5-0 vote.

1st Reading of the 2020-003 Ordinance Assessing and Levying the 2020-2021 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft Having a Situs in the City of Smiths Grove, KY. Mayor Stiffey

stated these property tax rates are set by Warren County. Commissioner Marr made a motion to accept this first reading of the Ordinance 2020-003 and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The first reading was approved by 5-0 vote.

1st Reading of the 2020-004 Ordinance Assessing and Levying the 2020 Annual Property Tax on Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property within the City of Smiths Grove, KY. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to accept this first reading of the Ordinance 2020-004 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The first reading was approved by 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Marr asked Attorney Moore about the status of receipt of occupational tax from Warren County Public Schools employees. Attorney Moore stated he was happy to report that Warren County Public Schools will begin withholding the 1 percent Smiths Grove occupational tax the first payroll in September.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 9-28-2020
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk.