

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 7:00PM

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

Absent: Commissioner Steve Roney

Invocation was given by Chaplain Casey Mathias

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey recognized Debbie Richey, our 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 December 7, 2020. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – December 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 4-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey reported the following information as compiled by City Clerk Nancy Howard:

As of 1/20/21 99.56% of tangible taxes and 96.94% of real estate taxes for 2020 have been received

The City has placed 5 liens against properties with delinquent property taxes due totaling \$2,888.08

Tangible taxes for 8 businesses that total \$20.78 have been written off

To date, \$72,000 in Occupational Payroll Tax License income has been received and we estimate to collect a total of \$86,000 by the end of January

W2's and new 1099 NEC forms have been mailed out

Chief Franks, Commissioner Marr, Commissioner Schroader, and Commissioner Bob Buehl attended the KLC City Officials Orientation on-line in December

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated he had nothing to report this month except the change to parking on Main Street has been working well with no issues. Mayor Stiffey reported he had spoken with a citizen who is happy with the change and Commissioner Marr reported the citizens that live on Main Street that he and Chief Franks spoke to were receptive to the change.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader deferred to Chief Franks for his comments. Chief Franks mentioned the monthly report for December and annual report for 2020 which he had completed. Chief Franks read a letter he had written detailing issues and accomplishments in his first year of service in Smiths Grove, along with his hopes for 2021. Chief Franks thanked former Commissioner Bob Smith for all of his help and support. Mayor Stiffey thanked Chief Franks for compiling the information included in his letter and monthly and annual reports. Commissioner Marr thanked Chief Franks for what he does for our community.

Cemetery Report

Mayor Stiffey stated mowing bids for the cemetery would be discussed in Old Business.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl reported there were four incidents recorded and one of those was resolved by picking up trash. Chief Franks reported he had spoken to the owner of property located at 135 Main Street, Mr. Tom Carruthers. Mr. Carruthers will be in Smiths Grove Tuesday, January 26 to clean up trash around his business and will work on structural issues as he is able.

Committee Reports

The Mayor stated that while there are no Committee Reports this evening, Clerk Howard has provided copies of the Aging Committee information and they are located on the back table along with information from SCRTC.

Old Business

The Mayor deferred to City Attorney Hamp Moore for his comments regarding the Joint Agreement for City of Smiths Grove/Warren County-City Planning Commission voting representation boundaries. Attorney Moore stated the planning commission is a body that regulates zoning and land use in Warren County. Currently, all 12 planning commission members (four each from Warren County and the City of Bowling Green and one each from Oakland, Plum Springs, Smiths Grove, and Woodburn) vote on all matters that come before the commission. Under the amended plan, zoning changes related to specific properties will be handled differently. For applications in the city limits of Smiths Grove or within a quarter-mile of the city limits, the appointee for Smiths Grove (Debbie Richey) will vote along with the four county appointed commission members. Attorney Moore stated if the agreement is not agreed upon by all six legislative bodies, the City of Bowling Green and Warren Fiscal Court will withdraw their funding and form a new commission. Attorney Moore stated that the cities of Oakland and Plum Springs have requested that the buffer outside their city limits be increased from $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in the agreement. He also stated the City of Woodburn had previously voted to approve the change but has since disapproved the measure. Commissioner Marr stated he didn't think it was fair for representatives appointed by Warren Fiscal Court to be allowed to vote on zoning issues in our area when our representative could not vote on issues in other areas of Warren County. Commissioner Marr stated his perception is everything is working fine, what is the problem, and what needs to be changed. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to table the consideration of this proposal for final vote. He stated he would contact the necessary parties and request that the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile buffer be changed to 1 mile. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader and was approved by 4-0 vote.

The Mayor reported that Clerk Howard has prepared the mowing bid documents and they are available to interested parties. Sealed bids will be opened at the February commission meeting.

New Business

Mayor Stiffey stated Police Chief Jason Franks just completed his first year of service with the City. The Mayor made a motion to raise Chief Franks' hourly pay by \$2.50, effective February 1, 2021 and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The motion passed by 4-0 vote. Mayor Stiffey stated there are 2 part-time positions in the Police Department that could be filled but a new full-time police officer could be hired after July 1, 2021.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the car port is scheduled to be installed on February 2.

Mayor Stiffey stated that Buc-ee's fuel center is becoming more of a reality. The Mayor stated it is to be constructed on land currently owned by the Tarter family next to I-65. The Mayor has spoken with Mr, Stan Beard who handles property acquisition for Buc-ee's and Mr. Beard has asked questions about the City of Smiths Grove tax rates. Mayor Stiffey stated he would like for the commission to consider waiving property taxes for Buc-ee's for a period of time if they would consider be annexed into the City of Smiths Grove. Attorney Moore recommends calculating the amount of property tax we would waive vs. the amount of occupational tax we would potentially collect. Commissioner Buehl asked how many acres would be involved and Mayor Stiffey responded 30.

Mayor Stiffey stated the addition being built to Mark Marr's property on Main Street is completed. Attorney Moore reported it is on code enforcement radar and James Heady is the investigator.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED



DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST



DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE

2-23-21
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk.