

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021 7:00PM

Mayor David Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Steve Roney, Commissioner Eric Schroader, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant City Clerks Debbie Joyner and Paula Sleeman.

Members Absent: Commissioner Bob Buehl

Invocation was given by Mayor Stiffey

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – June 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Schroader. The Treasurers Reports were approved by 4-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that the city received \$103,324.64 today from the American Rescue Plan Act: Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds are one-half of the amount the city is to receive from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with the final installment expected to be received next year. Mayor Stiffey thanked City Clerk Nancy Howard for her hard work and effort to ensure these funds were received by the city. He stated Clerk Howard had to complete and submit numerous forms and reports to various entities. Clerk Howard will work with Bank of Edmonson County to open a new bank account strictly for these funds. Mayor Stiffey stated he and Clerk Howard will be determining specifically what expenses the funds can be used for.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated he had nothing new to report. He hopes the remaining paving can be done by Scotty's by the end of summer. Commissioner Marr reported that there are streets that need to be cleaned and he estimates it would take a half day to complete. Mayor Stiffey reported he saw Commissioner Marr and Chief Franks trimming bushes and tree limbs overhanging sidewalks. Mayor Stiffey reported Brian Gaul did some spraying for the city. Mayor Stiffey reported that Kenneth Cowles Concrete pricing for sidewalk repairs will remain the same as last year. Commissioner Marr estimates necessary sidewalk repairs will be approximately \$7,000. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve sidewalk repairs from Kenneth Cowles Concrete not to exceed \$7,000 and Mayor Stiffey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote. Velta Rose Smith mentioned the ornamental grass at the IGA store hinders your vision when you are turning left out of McDonald's onto Main Street. Commissioner Marr stated he had noticed that and agreed. Chief Franks stated he would contact IGA and he feels like they won't have a problem

with trimming the grass. Mayor Stiffey stated he had gotten a complaint about bamboo that is overgrown near the College Street railroad crossing. This property is owned by CSX Railroad and Mayor Stiffey reported that they spray periodically but it may be easier for the city to just clean it up.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader reported that evidence drop bins have been purchased, the microphone in the Police vehicle needs repair, and running boards will be installed on the Dodge truck Friday. Chief Franks recognized the following citizens for being good neighbors: Travis Edwards and Luis Vargas who assisted Chief Franks with traffic control and various tasks after a vehicle hit a light pole on Main Street, and Jeff Smith who found a wallet in Speedway's parking lot with \$1,800 cash, various credit cards, and ID cards. The wallet was returned to the owner with nothing missing. Chief Franks reported there had been several thefts including Jimmy Cooke's vehicle from Main Street. Chief Franks reported Assistant Chief of Police, Rick Bessette, had completed training and would be doing firearms training with WKU personnel. Assistant Chief Bessette reported his first days and weeks have gone well and he is getting reacquainted with folks in the community. Commissioner Roney asked if the speed trailer had been received and Chief Franks said no, it could take up to 10 weeks from order date.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated that he had swept and cleaned the bugs out of the Chapel. Mayor Stiffey mentioned the proposed scattering grounds for cremains. He stated a walkway and pad will cost approximately \$2,550 (quote from Kenneth Cowles Concrete) and a 10x10 gazebo from Four Winds Wholesale will cost \$7,500. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to proceed with the project and Commissioner Roney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote. Mayor Stiffey stated the project will be funded by the Cemetery Improvement Fund.

Administration Report – Update

Mayor Stiffey reported that \$5,000 is budgeted for this fiscal year for new Christmas lights. Mayor Stiffey stated he has received a quote from Temple Display, Ltd for new lights at a cost of \$4,440. Commissioner Marr made a motion to purchase Christmas lights from Temple Display, Ltd and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote.

Code Enforcement Report

Chief Franks stated that the building structure at 135 N. Main Street is becoming increasingly unstable and unsafe. He stated the antique shop is not opened and he has sent several emails and a certified letter to the owner. He also reports there is rubbish, debris, and the property needs to be mowed. Chief Franks reported that he continues to address issues at 210 Highland. He reported a certified letter has been sent but the sidewalk continues to be covered with debris. Chief Franks reports that the property behind Saylor's Golf Carts (not the owner) on Kentucky Street is grown up. Chief Franks reported that work continues on alley ways. Chief Franks also stated that citizens on Broadway have asked for assistance with managing the upcoming school traffic.

Committee Reports

Mayor Stiffey stated there are no committee reports but reminded everyone that Smiths Grove Days Festival will not be held this year. Mayor Stiffey reported that "Saturdays in Smiths Grove" are being held on the 2nd Saturday of every month July – November 2021. Amelia Blubaugh at

Marigold Vintage is spearheading this venture. Mayor Stiffey reported that the Christmas Parade will be held on the first Friday night in December.

New Business

Discussion on amending the Golf Cart Ordinance pertaining to ATV/UTV:

Chief Franks will work with Attorney Moore to address wording to amend the Golf Cart Ordinance. Chief Franks stated that since the Golf Cart Ordinance went into effect, he has been fielding questions about ATV type vehicles on city streets. Specifically, there has been use of ATV or other types of vehicles used on city streets during Smiths Grove Days, Halloween and the Christmas Parade. Commissioner Marr stated an updated ordinance will not make everyone happy. Attorney Moore stated the speed limit is the overwhelming factor. Commission Roney stated he is more concerned about speeders than golf carts. Mayor Stiffey stated he hopes to have updated ordinance ready for next Commission meeting.

Amend Ordinance 11-007 630.00 pertaining to the grave plot fee cost:

Mayor Stiffey stated grave plot fee cost was amended in August 2011 and raised the price of a grave from \$375 to \$500. Mayor Stiffey stated in order to stay in the price range of other local municipalities, he feels it is time for a price increase. He also stated the increase would help offset additional maintenance costs. Mayor Stiffey suggested raising the cost of a single grave from \$500 to \$625. Mayor Stiffey suggested keeping the cost of a 4-grave plot at \$2,000 (\$500 for each grave). He stated that 4-grave plots were designed for families where one headstone was used with information on both sides. Commissioner Marr suggested that the cost of 4-grave plots be raised to \$2,400 (\$600 for each grave). Commissioner Roney made a motion to increase single grave price to \$625 and 4-grave plot to \$2,400 (\$600 each) effective September 1, 2021. Attorney Moore stated the 1st reading of the ordinance can be done tonight. Commissioner Marr seconded the motion and it was approved by 4-0 vote.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 8-25-2021
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk