

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, August 23, 2021 7:00PM

Commissioner Marr called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Members Present: Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Bob Buehl, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant City Clerk Paula Sleeman. Mayor David Stiffey arrived late and was not present for the Commission votes, as indicated by the vote numbers.

Members Absent: Commissioner Steve Roney

Invocation was given by Commissioner Schroader
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Marr asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2021. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – July 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Buehl to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Schroader. The Treasurers Reports were approved by 3-0 vote.

Administration Report

Upon his arrival, Mayor Stiffey stated he had nothing to report.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated that the paver was supposed to start last week but was most likely delayed by rain and at this time the best information he has is that it will start as soon as possible. Commissioner Marr stated that Chief Franks and Assistant Chief Bessette scheduled a street clean up day the Sunday following the July Commission meeting. Commissioner Marr said that around five citizens voluntarily joined the clean up when they saw the officers working on it.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader added to the street clean up report that he and Commissioner Buehl and a men's group at the Smiths Grove Methodist Church are interested in helping next time. A citizen asked if it is possible to start a list of local residents that may need assistance with yard clean up and leaf removal. Chief Franks said a fall clean up is already planned. Commissioner Buehl said that he will suggest this to the Smiths Grove Methodist Church men's group.

Commissioner Schroader reported that he, Chief Franks, and Asst. Chief Bessette dropped evidence off in Madisonville. Chief Franks reported that July had been a busy month for the police and this is largely due to an overall trend in crime growth. Chief Franks asked that anything suspicious be reported even if it seems small.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Marr stated that the paving is the only current project for the cemetery at this time.

Code Enforcement Report

Chief Franks stated that there is still some problems with overgrowth in the alley behind 3rd Street. A citizen has suggested to Chief Franks and Commissioner Marr that the speed limit sign at Vincent near Speedway can be confusing and could be misunderstood that it is intended for the parking lot. Chief Franks stated that they will consider repositioning the sign more street-facing. Commissioner Marr asked Attorney Hamp Moore if there has been any discussion regarding the property at 1st and Main Streets and Attorney Moore responded that the meeting about it has been pushed to the 5th of September.

Old Business

Second Reading – Ordinance 2021-005 to increase the cost of individual grave plots to \$625 each and increase the cost of a four-plot purchase to \$600 each, the total being \$2,400 for four plots. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-005 and Commissioner Buehl seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 – 0.

First Reading – Ordinance 2021-008, an amendment to the Golf Cart Ordinance pertaining to ATVs/UTVs. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-008 and Commissioner Schroader seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 – 0.

New Business

First Reading – Ordinance 2021-006 Assessing and Levying the 2021 Annual Property Tax on Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property within the City of Smiths Grove, KY. Commissioner Marr made a motion to accept this first reading of the Ordinance 2021-006 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The first reading was approved by 3-0 vote.

First Reading - Ordinance 2021-007 Assessing and Levying the 2021-2022 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft Having a Situs in the City of Smiths Grove, KY. Commissioner Marr made a motion to accept this first reading of the Ordinance 2021-007 and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The first reading was approved by 3-0 vote.

Mike Cassady addressed the Commissioners regarding a code violation he received that cited him for parking against the flow of traffic on E. 1st Street. Mr. Cassady stated that there was no signage to notify the public that this was illegal and that posted signage would be helpful particularly for visitors and out-of-town guests. Chief Franks stated that there is no requirement to post signage for any ordinance and it is the responsibility of the individual to understand the laws. Attorney Hamp Moore added that Kentucky Statute 72.02, adopted in 1968, states that, “It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any motor vehicle or any other thing that may be a nuisance, obstruction, or hindrance in or on the mainly traveled portion of any roadway, or on a sidewalk within the city at any time.”

A citizen brought up concerns with the flow of traffic and blocking driveways during school pick up at Broadway and Wayne. It was suggested that possibly the school could stagger dismissal times by grade, that traffic could be redirected down College Street to 6th, or that specific routes could be assigned to specific grades for pick up. The citizen stated that they understand the concern

regarding Covid-19 and that is why many parents are electing not to use buses. Mayor Stiffey stated that he understood the problem, however the city is not responsible to provide parking for the school. Chief Franks stated that due to the increase of children being dropped off now instead of riding the bus, the number has more than doubled since 2019. Chief Franks further stated that E. 4th Street is too narrow to accommodate both cars and buses and Main Street and other major roads must remain clear so it was decided to use the recommendation that was made to use Kentucky and Broadway. Chief Franks stated that staggering times would be a decision for the Warren County School Board and the citizen should talk to the principal of North Warren. After more discussion Chief Franks stated that the school has repeatedly sent out notifications regarding the recommended flow of traffic as well as maps, but that largely this problem falls on individuals following the rules of traffic and parking.

There was discussion about a possible celebration of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Smiths Grove and other ideas to add curb appeal and aesthetics to the area such as paint the water tower or add signage or murals. Mayor Stiffey stated that these are things that would require a committee to oversee and a dedicated budget. Commissioner Buehl added that there was a "Welcome to Smiths Grove" sign by the Bryce Inn and Mayor Stiffey added that the speed trailer that has been recently purchased has the capability to display messages. Commissioner Marr added that the water tower is owned by the Warren County Water District, and it will be replaced/removed in the future. Mayor Stiffey added that any changes to historical buildings must be submitted to the Historical Society for approval. There was a question posed about hosting a farmers market once a month and Commissioner Marr responded that Smiths Grove is currently hosting Saturdays in Smiths Grove once a month and Mayor Stiffey responded that farmers markets are regulated by the Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture (Extension Office).

A citizen stated that traffic is bad near Exit 38 with the added gas stations at the I-65 interchange and asked if there were any plans to put in a traffic light. Mayor Stiffey responded that a traffic study was conducted by the Department of Highways and it was determined that the counts did not justify one.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
PAULA L. SLEEMAN, ASST. CITY CLERK

DATE 9-27-2021
Minutes were prepared by Paula L. Sleeman, Assistant City Clerk