

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 7:00PM

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

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

Members Absent: None

Invocation was given by Terry Hendrick

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

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mayor Stiffey recognized Terry Hendrick, Democratic candidate for District 4 Magistrate. Mr. Hendrick introduced himself and stated he lives on Sunnyside Gott Road and will retire in July from BGMU with 27 years of service. He also stated he is a longtime member of the Gott Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Stiffey recognized Joe Imel, Republican candidate for District 4 Magistrate, and Mr. Imel stated he is here to listen and learn. Mayor Stiffey recognized Tauheedah Mateen, Public Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Ms. Mateen reported she is working in Warren County because of the tornados and she left information regarding SBA Disaster Assistance Loans. She reported the deadline for loan applications is February 11, 2022.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2021. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – December 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr 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 reminded everyone that it is an election year for Mayor and Commissioners and the Commission has until the 1st Monday in May, 2022 to change the salary for the incoming Mayor and Commissioners in 2023. Mayor Stiffey asked everyone to give the issue some thought.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr reported that the State of KY may increase Municipal Road Aid funds for cities.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader reported that he and Chief Franks had attended an Emergency Management Meeting at BRADD. Commissioner Schroader stated that he, Chief Franks and Assistant Chief Bessette will design an Emergency Action Plan for the Police Department. Commissioner Schroader reported he had sent a letter to Governor Beshear in December nominating Chief Franks for consideration as a Kentucky Colonel. Governor Beshear approved and Commissioner Schroader made the presentation of Kentucky Colonel Commission to Chief Franks. Chief Franks reported December was a busy month due to the Warren County Sheriff's Department being involved with disaster relief from the tornados. Chief Franks reported he, Assistant Chief Bessette, and Mayor Stiffey worked search and recovery in a Bowling Green area heavily damaged by a tornado. Chief Franks gave the annual report for 2021 and noted advancements that have been made. He reported there were 2,457 service calls in 2021. He stated the focus in 2022 will be on training. Chief Franks also stated they will investigate grant funding for a stand alone generator to run City Hall and operate for 72 hours. Commissioner Marr reported he is receiving positive comments about our Police Department on social media and he is pleased with the performance of both officers. Chief Franks stated Assistant Chief Bessette had been with the City of Smiths Grove for 6 months and he presented him with a Smiths Grove Police Department coin. Smiths Grove resident Diana Stiffey, reminded everyone that there is a storm shelter at Ed Spear Park. Commissioner Roney asked where we are with making NWES a safe shelter during storms and Chief Franks stated they are working on that. Commissioner Marr stated NWES is a designated tornado shelter.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated he had nothing to report. Mayor Stiffey stated Tyler Furlong, who has the current mowing contract, told him he would not be mowing going forward. Mayor Stiffey stated the next person on the list, from bids received last year, is Jim Baxter. Mayor Stiffey asked Attorney Moore if it would be possible to contract with Mr. Baxter without taking bids again. Attorney Moore stated since it has been within the last year for bids, it would be acceptable to use those same bids and that the Commission would need to adopt a Municipal Order stating the assignment of the bid for 2022. Attorney Moore asked if we would give him his bid price or offer him what Mr. Furlong receives and Mayor Stiffey said we will offer what Tyler Furlong is being paid. Mayor Stiffey stated the bid amounts were close and Mr. Baxter would need to take over the entire mowing contract including City Hall and rights-of-way.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl reported he had spoken with Chief Franks and there are no outstanding issues right now. Commissioner Buehl reported he had been battling Covid-19 but he did file for re-election today. Commissioner Schroader stated he will be filing his paperwork this week and Commissioner Marr encouraged any in attendance who were interested to file their paperwork.

Old Business

Mayor Stiffey stated that Buc-ee's is still in the works and they would like the City of Smiths Grove to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds to fund the project. Attorney Moore stated Industrial Revenue Bonds encourage development and create job opportunities. Attorney Moore stated the cost of the project is \$50 million and Buc-ee's will have definite plans in 30 days. He stated they hopefully, will have a presentation at the February Commission meeting. Attorney Moore stated there is no obligation to the City of Smiths Grove. Commissioner Buehl asked if this is a first for the City and

Attorney Moore responded he thought so. Commissioner Marr stated he had done research on Industrial Revenue Bonds and he found this is a common practice. Mayor Stiffey stated any concerns will be addressed during Buc-ee's presentation to the Commission.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 2-28-22
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk