

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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 City Clerk Nancy Howard.

Members Absent: None

Invocation was given by Magistrate candidate for the 4th District, Joe Imel
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 January 24, 2022. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – January 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The Treasurer's Report was approved by 5-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey stated there are only approximately \$3500 in delinquent Property Taxes, excluding properties with liens. The annual Cemetery Report due to the KY Attorney General has been submitted and verified with Clerk Howard that all city officials have submitted their annual Financial Interest Statement which are due to BRADD.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr reported two areas which will be followed up for repair; a street cut repair on 5th Street and an area on Laurel Street which the Warren Co. Water District will need to repair after their work.

Commissioner Marr stated that he had investigated the buzzard roosting problem by contacting the US Dept. of Agriculture. The information matches what the city has previously been told about trying to get rid of buzzards. Representatives from the Dept Agriculture could coordinate with residents and the city for a cost of \$2500 to do the following;

- Shoot buzzards that would be hanged in the trees or water tower for a period of time because buzzards will not roost in the proximity of a dead buzzard
- For 2-3 days shoot off pyrotechnics to scare off the buzzards

This requires coordination between Agriculture rep, the residents/city (in the area of the roosting), residents to sign agreements for representative(s) to be on residential properties and to allow dead buzzards to hang in their trees for a period long enough to deter the buzzards, to allow the noise of pyrotechnics for 2-3 days and to possibly share the cost with the city. The Agricultural rep also stated that there is no guarantee that the buzzards won't come back. The Mayor stated the city hired

a resident to shoot off a sound cannon like the pyrotechnics a couple of years ago and it had no effect on the removal of the buzzards as they simply returned.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroeder stated he had nothing to report and deferred to Chief Franks. Chief Franks stated that February was a very busy month, especially with thefts and an uptick of drug trafficking. He reminded residents to lock their vehicles and check their storage units to assure that locks had not been cut or replaced.

Both Chief Franks and Asst. Chief Bessette completed CPR/First Aid training 1/31/2022 and Asst. Chief Bessette will be attending a week of training in March.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated he would be looking into landscaping around the Cemetery gazebo.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl reported Chief Franks had contacted several businesses about the property appearance and litter. McDonald's worked immediately on their issues and improved their ability to keep the premises clean. The Travel Center is working on their issues. Dollar General has not complied with the city communication for clean-up even after several discussions, so Commissioner Buehl and Chief Franks will be contacting the General Manager to communicate the property complaints. Chief Franks will begin communicating the property code enforcement issues with Marathon and Speedway, next.

Old Business

New Business

Mayor Stiffey proposed a change in the current funeral burial service process whereby the City would be the contact for local funeral homes to acquire burial services. Because the city already verifies the grave locations as a step in the process, this change will streamline the communication and assure the accuracy and quality of the contracted burial service. The funeral homes would contact the city, pay the city and the city would pay the designated contractor. The Mayor asked Attorney Moore if the city Resolution Number 05-11, Section 3, paragraph 1, referencing Contractor for Burial Services suffices for this process change and if the city could bid out the contracting. Attorney Moore responded that the Resolution is adequate and does not require any revision. He agreed that bidding would be appropriate. The Mayor made a motion to implement a process whereby the local funeral homes will contact the city for the provision of burial services with the city selecting the Burial Service Contractor from bids received after a one-time published bid ad in the Bowling Green Daily News. The city would select the best suited contractor, not the lowest bid contractor. Commissioner Roney seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 in approval. The Mayor anticipates bringing possibly 4-5 bids to the next meeting so that the Commission can approve a designated contractor.

Commissioner Marr asked about the Municipal Order 2022-001 which designates the new contractor, James Baxter, for Mowing Services to the Cemetery, City Hall and Right-of-Ways.

Mayor Stiffey asked Attorney Moore if the Order naming James Baxter with pricing the same as the former contractor met his approval which it did.

The Mayor stated that at the last Commission meeting he asked the Commissioners to consider pay raises for city officials who will be elected for the start of the January 1, 2023, term. Any pay changes must be voted on with 2 readings before May 1st. In 2019 the Commission determined to keep the Commissioners pay the same at \$100 per month but changed the Mayor’s pay to \$200 per month. After discussion, Commissioner Buehl made a motion to change the Mayor’s salary to \$600 per month and the Commissioners’ salary to \$200 a month. Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 in approval.

Commissioner Roney asked if North Warren Elementary had been designated as a tornado shelter and Chief Franks responded that there must be Knox Box equipment installed at the front and back of the building before it can be used as a shelter. The Knox Box contains entry keys available only to Police/Fire. Ultimately the school will be an additional location along with the Spears Park shelter.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE 3-28-22
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk