

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, April 25, 2022 7:00PM

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

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

Members Absent: None

Guests Recognition: Tim Eifler of Stoll Keenan Ogden PLLC representing Buc-ee's: Joe Imel, Candidate for 4th District Magistrate; Terry Hendrick, Candidate for 4th District Magistrate

Invocation was given by Commissioner Buehl.
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 March 28, 2022. Commissioner Marr requested an edit to the Public Works section regarding paving of a patch on 5th Street. Otherwise, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Stiffey deferred to Tim Eifler who presented the Bond Inducement Resolution which will allow for the issuance of taxable industrial building revenue bonds. Mr. Eifler stated that if the City agrees to issue bonds (\$65,000 million) for financing, the City will be a conduit and is not pledging credit for the Buc-ee's project. Mr. Eifler stated the estimated annual payroll for Buc-ee's will be \$8 million and the 1% estimated employee occupational tax due to the City of Smiths Grove will be \$80,000. Mr. Eifler stated the next step of the project is annexation of 32 acres into the City of Smiths Grove. Mayor Stiffey asked for a motion to accept the resolution and Commissioner Schroader made the motion. Commissioner Roney seconded the motion and it was approved by 5-0 vote.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – March 2022

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

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey stated he didn't have anything to report but thanked Attorney Moore for his help with the Buc-ee's project.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader deferred to Chief Franks. Chief Franks reported March was a busy month and reminded everyone to keep everything locked. He reported there have been thefts of catalytic converters which is a problem county-wide. Chief Franks stated he attended training last week for baton certification and he is now qualified to teach those classes.

Mayor Stiffey stated the Police Department needs to purchase another vehicle, preferably a truck. Mayor Stiffey said this is necessary due to issue of repairs, accidents, etc. when one of the vehicles in our fleet is unavailable. He reported that once Buc-ee's is completed, the plan is to hire an additional police officer which means an additional vehicle is needed. Mayor Stiffey stated the new vehicle would be purchased from funds in the 2022-2023 budget which begins July 1. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to start the process to purchase a truck in the amount of up to \$40,000. He stated it would take an additional \$15,000 - \$20,000 to equip the new vehicle. Chief Franks stated it is a problem if one of the current vehicles is unavailable. Mayor Stiffey stated the balance in the Vehicle Replacement Fund will be used as a down payment on the truck and we can make payments until funds are available July 1. Mayor Stiffey stated due to the lack of inventory of vehicles, it may be July before one can be purchased. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated he has ideas for the scattering grounds but will begin work on that project when the weather improves. Mayor Stiffey reported that Channing Hatcher is doing a good job and he has received compliments on his sodding of graves. Mayor Stiffey thanked Assistant Clerk Debbie Joyner for her work on the annual cemetery donation letter and reported that approximately \$6,000 has been received in less than a month.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl reported that a complaint has been received on 121 Rumsey Street and Chief Franks will give a notice to the property owner. Commissioner Buehl reported there is a cane break on 1st Street at the railroad tracks which causes a visibility problem. Work is currently being done to eradicate the cane and spraying will be done after clean up. Mayor Stiffey reported that he gave the updated oath to Chief Franks and Assistant Chief Bessette. The updated oath has new language regarding gambling. Commissioner Schroader was a witness. Commissioner Marr stated that he has noticed several yards that look like salvage yards. He stated that these yards need to be cleaned up.

Old Business

Mayor Stiffey stated that a glass protection window had been installed in the Clerk's area. He stated that this purchase would be paid with American Rescue Plan funds. Mayor Stiffey asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the glass protection window at a cost of \$1,259.62 and Commissioner Marr made the motion. Commissioner Roney seconded the motion and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey asked if anyone had comments and Joe Imel reported that the nearest voting location for Smiths Grove residents is Ephraim White Park which is located on Mt. Olivet Road behind Warren East High School. Mr. Imel stated this is unacceptable. During his campaign he has visited

folks in areas such as Hays who are several miles from the nearest voting location and he feels this will hinder folks from voting because of the distance they have to travel. Commissioner Marr agreed with Mr. Imel's comments and said he will be surprised if voter turnout for this area is 20%.

Smiths Grove resident Greg Roth asked about the proposed round-a-bout by McDonald's. He stated increased traffic will be a mess. Commissioner Marr reported that the state is in charge. Mr. Imel suggested that Mr. Roth contact Joe Plunk at the State Highway Department to get additional information. Mayor Stiffey reported that the property for sale behind McDonald's is under contract.

Mayor Stiffey reported that Magistrate Rex McWhorter contacted him and said he couldn't attend tonight's meeting but reported that a "COWS" alarm will be installed at the fire station in the Hays community.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE May 23, 2022
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk