

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY AUGUST 22, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Varner, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Pierce, and Commissioner Stiffey.

Also present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

All present recited the Pledge to Allegiance

Mayor Higginbotham welcomed all of the special guests in attendance at the meeting

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (July25, 2011)

Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (July, 2011)

Report was approved by unanimous consent.

Aging Report

Commissioner Varner reported that due to his injury he was unable to make the meeting but was able to give a report. Upcoming events include: False Prevention and Awareness Sept. 23rd at Living Hope, Nursing Home Awareness Oct. 4th at Warren Central High School, Mental Health and Aging Oct. 25th at First Baptist Church and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is accepting applications at BRADD.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Varner reported that he and Mayor Higginbotham have gone out and assessed the streets and signs to determine which are in the most need of repair. There is a new mandate regarding signs reflectivity and specific lettering types.

Commissioner Pierce wished to address the fact that when it rains water will stand in the road on Laurel Ave. beside the Fire Department. Anthony Stidham and Dennis Jones from the Fire Department were present and reported that they are in the preliminary stages and have met with the County Engineer to see about getting an 8" concrete slab and grate under the new section of the Fire Department that will drain into a well in the fire station. They have also talked to the Judge Executives office and were thinking that the Fire Department, Warren County and the city of Smiths Grove could split the cost of the project. Commissioner Varner asked to meet with them after the meeting because this could help with the College Street problem as well.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Martin read the police report for July, 2011 and then also gave a report on the hits to the website and FaceBook.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that he had met with Two Brothers in regards to the mowing job they are doing and about the fact that it is not being done correctly. He also reported that the business is in the process of being sold but transaction is not complete at this time. He also reported that he was not satisfied with the job being done on the stones in the cemetery. He does not feel that all stones have been raised and aligned as agreed upon and wants the mayor and he to meet in the cemetery and look at. He is still working on the matter of the trash cans for the cemetery.

Code Enforcement Report

At this time the mayor introduced Mr. Steve Hunter with Warren County Planning & Zoning because he has been working with 7 properties in the city to get them cleaned up. 150 W 3rd - He contacted the daughter and Executrix of the estate who signed an Authorization of Entry and Abatement giving permission for the city to mow, board up and clean up but there are 12 -15 liens on the property so it would do no good to put another lien on the property.

303 Cave – Sent a notice and the son tore down the old house.

0 Laurel – Michael Barrick is not sure what he is going to do with the property because supposedly in bankruptcy. Mr. Hunter suggests sending a citation.

127 Higgins – No response from the owners who do not live in the area.

121 Higgins - No response from the owners who do not live in the area

225 Higgins – Received the green card back so owner did receive but have not responded.

510 Cave – Mr. Hunter has talked to Mr. Robert Forshee who IS the owner of the property. Mr. Hunter wants to get Mr. Forshee to sign an Authorization of Entry and Abatement so the city can clean up. Since the store is uninhabitable and dangerous believes we could get permission to tear down but not sure how that works since we issue our own Building Permits and not the County. Believes our city Code Enforcement should be able to condemn the building. Does not suggest we try to do anything about the house.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christmas Parade Report

Commissioner Martin reported that the parade is on schedule and will be the first Friday night in December.

Cemetery Report

No report at this time because committee will not meet again until September.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First reading Ordinance #11-008 810 An Ordinance Adopting the City –County Planning Commission’s FOCUS 2030 Comprehensive Plan

Discussion was delivered by Mr. Steve Hunter of Planning and Zoning and Albert Rich said he was fine with the proposal.

Move was made by Mayor Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Pierce to accept. Ayes: All members present Motion carried.

Occupational License – Mayor Higginbotham addressed the fact that he did not feel it was fair to charge a seasonal occupation, such as street vendors selling produce and maybe persons who mow lawns but not under yearly contract, to be charged \$30 for an Occupational License. Suggested that maybe they should only be charged \$15. Also, right now the fine for not having an Occupational License is not reasonable or enforceable and that we should adopt something that is. The mayor asked everyone to think it over and give suggestions at next months meeting.

Strip and Wax floors and clean carpets in Municipal building.

Clerk reported that at this time we only had one quote and were waiting for more.

Decision was made to table until the next meeting.

Street Paving – Commissioner Varner has received two sealed bids to do the paving of 20 roads and intersections in the city. They are:

Hayes Paving 340 Tanglewood Trail, Bowling Green, KY for the amount of \$19,950.00

Scotty’s Contracting & Stone, LLC 2300 Barren River Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42102 for the amount of \$\$27,908.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Pierce to accept the bid from Hayes Paving and was second by Commissioner Stiffey Ayes All members present Motion carried.

Commissioner Stiffey moved and Commissioner Martin seconded to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Closed session began at 8:31pm.

Commissioner Varner moved to re-open session and by acclamation was opened at 8:45 pm. Commissioner Pierce made a motion to give the Police Officers the budgeted amount for salary increase rescinding any previous amounts that may have been ordered and make it retroactive back to July 1 when the new budget started. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes All members present Motion carried.

Mayor Higginbotham moved to accept decision made regarding cemetery matters and was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes All members present Motion carried.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 9:16 pm.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE _____
Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk