

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019, 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner James (Mickey) Jones, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Steve Roney, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Johnny Vance, Police Officer Greg Claywell  
Absent: None

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm  
Invocation was given by Jessie Varner  
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Mayor welcomed guest, Craig Wickman, inviting him to speak concerning the development of the property behind McDonald's. Mr. Wickman stated he owned the 24.8 total acres behind McDonald's which is currently zoned as highway business. He explained that he has investigated the possibility of two industrial businesses locating at the back (furthest from Main Street) of that property; a propane distributor to service farmers and a hemp processing business which would take in local farmer hemp crops for processing. The propane business would hold underground 10K gallon propane tanks, using approximately 2.5 acres. The hemp processing plant would be a first step drying, processing plant so that the hemp could be send on to other commercial processes. This facility would use approximately 3 acres. The land would require re-zoning to "light industry" with the City-County Planning Commission. He stated that an access road would also be necessary. Mr. Wickman's purpose for sharing this information was to field any concerns or push-back from the Commission before proceeding with his plans. He left a Prospectus map with the Commissioners for their review. The consensus of the Commission Board is that they were in favor of the plans as presented.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes from the July 22, 2019 Regular Meeting. There were none. The minutes were approved by acclimation.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurers Report (July 2019)**

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

**Administration Report**

Mayor Stiffey stated that the 2018-2019 Audit is now underway with Hensley & Throneberry of Bowling Green. The Clerks distributed the Smiths Grove Days Festival flyers, handouts and website business update forms to the Main Street businesses. There has been good participation by businesses in completing the forms for the website update. The Mayor has ordered 5 new Christmas decoration lights for Main Street to replace worn out ones. He has replaced the four City Hall Park light poles with LED bulbs which will last longer and provide better lighting. The Park aluminum benches have been repainted.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr reported he has arranged for Matthew Cooke to trim trees/shrubs at various alleys as needed. He stated that replacement Smiths Grove logo street sign decals will be put on as the weather cools in the next 2-3 weeks. He mentioned the need for sidewalk repair on 1<sup>st</sup> street that will be addressed in the new business.

### **Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report**

Commissioner Buehl stated he had nothing to report other than Chief Vance's last workday will be October 31<sup>st</sup>. Chief Vance stated there is availability to use the Warren County Sheriff gun range on October 15<sup>th</sup> for police and the Commissioners, if interested. In preparation for his retirement he is working on updating the inventory list and closing out old cases from prior officers. The Mayor stated the plan was to advertise the Chief position for a week around the mid to end of October with the goal to interview candidates by the end of November. Chief Vance has vacation and sick time that will allow his official retirement date to be at the end of February 2020. Chief Vance stated that Officer Greg Claywell will be retiring as of the end of December. Commissioner Buehl stated our appreciation for both officers.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Roney stated there have been no complaints regarding the Cemetery.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Jones stated there are no complaints to report. The Mayor reported that the city is paying for the mowing of property owned by Walt McCay, and locations at Mill/ Main St. and Cave/5<sup>th</sup> St. Clerk Howard has worked on the complaints from the June Commissioner meeting regarding the appearance of buildings located at 117 S. Main and 125 S. Main Street. In contacting the owners, one owner will be cleaning out the windows to improve the appearance and the other owner has agreement to allow the covering of the old windows with new "mural type art" volunteered by Pyscho Grannies' resident artist, Waz Blankenship.

### **Committee Reports**

Jessie Varner read the summary minutes from the Aging Report held on August 14,2019 which included the slate of officers for the year 2020. Jessie Varner is the 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. He shared info on upcoming events hosted for seniors in our area. The next Aging Committee meeting is Nov. 20.

Mayor Stiffey provided an update on the Smiths Grove Days Festival stating there were approximately 35 vendors signed up and introduced the volunteer sign-up sheet to help with the Festival preparations. Anyone interested in helping with the Festival should contact City Hall to sign up on the list.

### **Old Business**

The Mayor led the second reading of the Ordinance 19-002 Smiths Grove Golf Cart Ordinance by stating that the goal would be to have the decals needed and the inspection set-up schedule in place for implementation by Spring. City Attorney Hamp Moore pointed out one minor change to the ordinance language prior to the vote. The Mayor made a motion to approve the second

reading of the Golf Cart Ordinance, Commissioner Jones seconded the motion and the Commission approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey stated the Commissioners and Attorney Moore had received an emailed copy of the Ordinance 19-003 Smiths Grove Occupational License Tax to review and asked if there were any questions. Attorney Moore stated appreciation for the Kentucky League of Cities and Brownsville Clerk for sharing this ordinance format and for the crosschecking of the statutes by Clerk Howard. Commissioner Jones stated that currently the city takes in approximately \$208,000 in income and that this Ordinance will assist the city in maintaining the ability to meet budget and provide additional funds as seen by other local cities. Attorney Moore commented that the rate of 1% of net profit was minimal in comparison to other surrounding cities. Commissioner Jones mentioned how important it is for all businesses who work in Smiths Grove to be licensed. The Ordinance will be ready for the first reading at the September Commissioner meeting.

### **New Business**

Mayor Stiffey introduced Ordinance 19-004 Levying 2019-2020 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft by stating the tax rate is the same as prior years, (Twenty Cents per \$100). Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the Ordinance as read and Commissioner Buehl seconded. The Ordinance was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey introduced Ordinance 19-005 Levying 2019 Annual Property Tax on Real Property (.114 per \$100) and Tangible Personal Property (.1313 per \$100) by stating the tax rates are the same as the prior year and the property total values numbers were provided by the Warren County PVA. Commissioner Marr motioned to approve the Ordinance as read and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The Ordinance was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he had received bids from Kenneth Cowles for a concrete pad area at the Cemetery and repair of the sidewalk on First Street. The bid of \$4500 is for the reinforced concrete pad and parking pad for the Cemetery dumpster and for the trash truck as it manages the emptying of the dumpster. The concrete will be 4000 pounds per square inch and include rebar for strength. The concrete cost will come from the Cemetery Improvement Fund. Commissioner Roney made a motion to approve the bid of \$4500 for the concrete work and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The bid was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Marr explained that he had received a resident's complaint regarding heavy trucks damaging the sidewalk on First Street, which he investigated. The bid of \$1450.00 was received from Kenneth Cowles to repair the sidewalk and reinforce the edge of the sidewalk. Commissioner Marr made the motion to proceed with the concrete work as bid and the Mayor seconded the motion. The bid was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. David Marr stated appreciation for the city's new LED streetlights and how good our Smiths Grove Cemetery looks.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED *David L. Stiffey*  
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST *Nancy Howard*  
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE *9-23-19*  
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk