

Smiths Grove City Commission meeting - March 23, 1998 - 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gilley called the meeting to order with commissioners Cooke, Martin and Lacy in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mayor called for additions or corrections to these minutes. With none to be heard, Comm. Lacy presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Lacy yes.

2. Treasurer's report

The commission reviewed this report, and with no additions or corrections to same, Comm. Lacy floored a motion to accept the report as printed, seconded by Comm. Cooke. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Lacy yes. Mayor Gilley informed those in attendance that copies of any of the reports were available if they would like one.

3. First reading of Ordinance #98-1 450.3-adopting a supplement to the code of ordinances

The clerk stated that an update of the code of ordinances was required annually and an ordinance accepting the update had to be enacted annually also. Comm. Martin presented a motion the above stated ordinance be accepted for a second reading, seconded by Comm. Lacy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Lacy yes.

4. Annual fire department city contribution

Mayor Gilley asks Kenneth Priddy, chief of the Fire Department to explain to those in attendance as well as the commission, what the fee increase of \$8,300 requested by the fire department was based on. Chief Priddy had compiled a detailed report of these facts for the commission. (attached) He stated that after the letter requesting the \$8,300 annual fee had been sent, the Fire Department Board had met and decided that a \$20.00 annual fee per 413 houses within the city was what this fee was based on, and if they could collect 65% of this total it would be approximately \$5,395, and the Board would accept a \$5,000 annual fee for a period of three years, and then it would be renegotiated. Chief Priddy was asked by the commission why a three year renegotiating period instead of the current five years. Fireman Belcher replied this was partially based on the airport, (proposed) that could be coming to the area, plus the fact the Smiths Grove area is expected to grow considerably in the next few years. The fire department would need additional equipment as well as trucks to meet these increased demands. The Mayor told those in attendance that the city, since the inception of the contract with the fire department had contributed a total of \$50,130.16 to them. This figure consists of equipment, truck, savings account and annual contributions since 1985. Tom Potts said at that time a truck could be purchased for around \$20,000 and now they were \$120,000. Comm. Lacy ask if the runs inside of the city limits were cheaper for the fire department to run than in the county since it was such a short distance and there were fire hydrants at their disposal compared to having to take a having to take a tanker truck. Ron Ward said the expense was very close to the same plus a 5" hose was needed for city runs. Comm. Martin ask how the other departments were funded. Chief Priddy said they also depended on membership dues. Chris Alderson ask if the fire department received \$500 for runs on the interstate. Chief Priddy said they were supposed to but it was very hard to collect this as most of the runs were for semi-trucks. The Mayor ask the commission their views on this raise. Comm. Lacy said in his opinion it was an excessive raise. Comm. Martin said she felt the commission needed to consult with the city attorney. Comm. Lacy then said he wanted to hear the opinions of the city taxpayers in attendance.

The comments were as follows:

Chris Alderson-He can see both the city and the fire departments side of the issue. He said from former meetings, he knew it cost the city for any advertising they had to do and the city is on a limited budget. He ask the fire department members if they didn't get contributions from city residents at the fund raisers they held. They said yes.

Gerald Brown-If this means that taxes would have to be raised to meet this increase, he definitely was not for the increase.

Jackie Lightfoot-is the city billed currently for these dues. Mayor Gilley said no it was an annual contribution of \$3,000 at the present time.

Walter McCay-Would taxes have to be raised to meet this increase. The clerk replied no. He also said he felt there needed to be a more open line of communication between the city and the fire department as to their needs. Chief Priddy said at the current time the department was paying a payment of \$12,386 yearly for the fire truck, and that is where the current contribution is spent. Mayor Gilley ask the fire department if they could give the commission some time to talk with the city attorney as well as the Public Service Commission to see if there is any regulations on how much of a rate increase is allowed. The fire department ask if he knew when the commission would have any answer to this.

Mayor Gilley said the commission would strive for the next meeting, April 27th. The fire department agreed to this. Addressing the proposed rate again, Mr. McCay ask if it were not correct that the city had more than \$400,000 in their treasury. Mayor Gilley said that was true, but the bulk of it could not be spent. First because it is the opinion of the commission and the city clerk that a large portion of this reserve will have to be returned to insurance companies, as premiums are being paid to the city for all persons with Smiths Grove addresses. Mayor Gilley added that a minimum of \$85,000 has been allocated for sidewalks, and hopefully some of the balance will either renovate the current city building or help to purchase another piece of property.

5. Delinquent taxes

The clerk had given the commission a list of the delinquent taxpayers and asks the commission if the wanted her to now send second notices to them. Comm. Martin presented a motion the clerk send second notices to all delinquent taxpayers, and file a lien on all properties that were five or more years in arrears, seconded by Comm. Lacy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Lacy yes.

6. Department reports

Cemetery-Comm. Lacy stated he had nothing to report.

Police-Comm. Martin read the monthly report (attached). She also stated that the new police radio had been installed and was working great. She ask the commission their opinion about purchasing a self-supporting microphone for the Chief. She had observed one on a deputy and felt it would be very advantageous. Tom Potts said he had purchased his from Kidd Communications in Cave City and he felt their price was more competitive than Motorola. The clerk agreed to check the price of this.

Streets-Comm. Cooke reported there was another chug hole in Hedge that needed attention. He said, to his knowledge, this would be one of the streets discussed at the MA Road hearing.

Comm. Martin reported the Neighborhood Watch meeting would be April 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the fire house.

With no further business to be conducted, a motion to adjourn was heard.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____
James R. Gilley, Mayor Dorothy J. Neal, City Clerk