

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner James (Mickey) Jones, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy Marr), and Commissioner Steve Roney

Absent: City Attorney Hamp Moore

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

Mayor Stiffey welcomed new Assistant Police Chief Wes Jenkins and his wife and children. Assistant Chief Jenkins was sworn in previously, but his wife pinned his badge officially in front of all in attendance. Commissioner Marr acknowledged Assistant Chief Jenkins' grandmother, Hilda Jenkins, who is a former teacher at North Warren Elementary School.

Commissioner Bob Buehl introduced Scott Dobler, GISP, Geography and GIS Instructor at WKU. Mr. Dobler gave a presentation on Smiths Grove demographics.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (February 25, 2019) and Special Meeting (March 5, 2019). Mayor Stiffey requested that the records reflect the minutes had been reviewed by the Commission and were approved by acclamation. Commissioner Marr stated he would like it noted in last month's meeting minutes that he voted against the motion to proceed with the alleyway closure process at Mr. Vincent's request and cost responsibility.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report (February 2019)

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

Administrative Report

The Mayor reported that lighting in the front part of City Hall had been changed to LED. He also reported that Brian Gaul had completed mulching and landscaping at City Hall and had already mowed once at the Cemetery.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated he and Mayor Stiffey had met with Scotty's Contracting regarding paving projects and this would be discussed later in the meeting. He also reported street lights would be changed to LED beginning in April. He stated any concrete street markers that are leaning or broken should be reported to City Hall so they can be removed.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Buehl stated he was happy to have Wes Jenkins on board as Assistant Police Chief and noted his experience with the Warren County Sheriff's office. Commissioner Buehl commended Chief Vance for the outcome of the recent KLC insurance audit which went very well and impacts the Police Department insurance policy. The rating went up from the 50's to the 70's.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated that he had met with Commissioner Buehl regarding transition of duties concerning the Cemetery. They discussed painting chains around the marker of the unknowns.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Jones reported the property he was working with, 218 Sunset Avenue, had improved. There are three other issues right now that he is aware of. Chief Vance stated a complaint was reported about trash at a residence on North Main Street and he contacted the tenant and they said they would get a trash can. Commissioner Jones directed Chief Vance to "take the next step" on properties located Laurel Street, Lawson Street, and W Fourth Street. Chief Vance will issue a Warning of Violation to each property owner and they will have 7 days to respond. Mayor Stiffey stated he and Clerk Howard have more properties to submit to Attorney Moore for property liens. Commissioner Marr stated there is a traffic issue at Main Street and Second Street turning toward the library. Chief Vance said he would contact the business owner about parking vehicles on the street. Commissioner Marr stated traffic blocking city streets should be addressed.

Committee Reports

Aging Committee – Jessie Varner

Mr. Varner reported that the Aging Services Review Committee met March 15. He also stated May is Older American's Month and BRADD/AAAIL is looking to honor all older persons 100 years of age or older throughout the Barren River Area Development District. Please report any citizens 100 years of age to Jessie Varner.

Smiths Grove Days Festival – September 28, 2019 & Christmas Parade – December 6, 2019

Mayor Stiffey reported that a Smiths Grove Days Festival poster created by Clerk Howard is on the City's website and guidelines for booths/participants are being updated. He also stated it is not too early to begin planning for the Christmas Parade and volunteers are welcome.

Old Business

- Discussion on closing alleyway between Mr. & Mrs. Gary Vincent and their neighbors on adjoining property

Commissioner Marr reported he received a call from a concerned citizen, Donna Whittle, who was in attendance. He asked her to voice her concerns regarding the closing of the alley. She asked why the alley on Mr. Vincent's end could be closed and her end could not. Mayor Stiffey stated SCRTC is okay with Mr. Vincent's end being closed and the adjacent property owner is also. He also stated that after construction of the building on their property is complete, SCRTC would be open to closing the entire alley. Commissioner Buehl asked if Ms. Whittle could start

the closing process on her end of the alley. Mayor Stiffey stated all adjoining property owners must agree with closing the alley. Commissioner Marr asked if anyone uses the alley and Ms. Whittle said no, it is grass and she mows and maintains it and considers it part of her yard. Commissioner Marr stated he doesn't have a problem with closing the alley if the entire thing is closed. He stated we should wait before closing the alley until it can be closed in its entirety. Ms. Whittle stated she is okay with that. Mayor Stiffey reminded everyone that this is a private matter and any costs associated with closure of the alley will be at the expense of the property owners and not the City. Clerk Howard stated Jessica Martin at City-County Planning Commission is the person Ms. Whittle should contact. Mayor Stiffey suggested Ms. Whittle check with adjoining property owners first to see if they agree.

➤ Discussion on sinkhole repair and paving bids

Mayor Stiffey stated revised bids had been received from Scotty's Contracting for sinkhole repair at City Hall, street paving, and Cemetery paving. He then asked for suggestions on how to proceed with the sinkhole repair. Commissioner Marr stated City Hall was built on the site of the former water works and it could be an old well shaft. He also stated he felt like we need to address the situation now. Mayor Stiffey stated there is no way to know what they will find once they get in there. It could be something simple or more extensive. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to start the process to repair the sinkhole and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey reported that due to the Atmos Energy line replacement project, College Street was paved last year instead of Laurel Street. Commissioner Marr stated the revised bid from Scotty's Contracting for Laurel Street was \$6,000 less than their previous bid due to petroleum prices. The revised bid is \$41,010 and if approved, paving will be done in June. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve paving of Laurel Street. Commissioner Buehl seconded and the motion was approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey reported that Cemetery paving bids are higher due to prep work because streets don't currently exist. He stated the bids for 2 new streets are \$4,608 and \$9,199. Mayor Stiffey stated there are a couple of "Ys" we are still working on and the bid amounts for those are \$900 and \$1,028. The bid to trim back gross edges on cemetery paths using a bucket broom is \$300. The total bid for Cemetery paving is \$16,035. Mayor Stiffey suggested doing all but the street for \$9,100 making the total Cemetery paving project \$6,935. Commissioner Roney made a motion to approve paving at the Cemetery in the amount of \$6,935 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote

Mayor Stiffey stated there is also work that needs to be done on the chapel.

New Business

➤ Set date for Budget Work Session meeting in April.

Mayor Stiffey stated it was time to set the date for the Budget Work Session in April. After discussion, the date for the meeting was set for Tuesday, April 16 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner

Marr asked if the funds that would not be spent for paving due to a lower bid would be carried over to the FY 2019-2020 budget. Mayor Stiffey responded yes.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 4-23-19
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk.