

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner Bob Smith, Commissioner Gary Vincent, Commissioner Martha Stiffey

Absent: Attorney F. Hampton Moore

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

Invocation was given by Mr. Buddy Marr.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stiffey welcomed candidate for Commissioner, Buddy Marr and County District 4 Magistrate candidate, Rex McWhorter.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (September 24, 2018)

The Commissioners approved the September 24, 2018 minutes, 5 – 0.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report (September 2018)

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. The treasurer report was approved by 5-0 vote.

Administrative Report

- The Mayor stated the Smiths Grove Days Festival went off smoothly and thanked a list of those who worked together to ensure the day was successful. Thank you, cards were sent out to this group who contributed to the success of the day.
- The Christmas Parade is the next event on the calendar and the Parade application and information has been published to our Smiths Grove website.
- The Methodist Church's Food Pantry Ministry annual Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for Saturday, November 3 at noon at the Methodist church and all city officials and family are invited to participate.
- Collected Occupational Licenses are at about \$3,000 this fiscal year
- Property Taxes were mailed out and are already rolling in.
- The Mayor stated there is a need for a Special Commissioner Meeting to be held for a first reading of the Ordinance regarding the rezoning of the locations pertaining to the Speedway development project. He suggested dates where the Speedway representatives were available for attendance; November 7, 9 or 15. The Commissioners determined to set the Special Meeting for November 15, 2018 at 6:00pm and Mayor Stiffey will work with Attorney Moore to draft the Ordinance to be read.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that Mayor Stiffey and Chief Vance attended the recent Meadows Homeowners Association meeting where the group requested additional speed limit signs in the subdivision, at least 4 signs. Other comments included that a speed limit sign of 35mph was posted on McKinley street. The recent storm and winds caused a tree to fall on Highland Avenue. The Mayor and volunteers from the Fire Dept. cleared the road but the debris has yet to be fully cleaned up. Gary Vincent asked if that tree debris was part of the debris that was left on property owned by Rez (Mahmoud R. Sadeghi), 210 Highland Avenue. He asked that Chief Vance check on what appears as inappropriate dumping of tree debris on that property.

Commissioner Stiffey stated that there is a camping trailer parked in a yard at the end of Beeler Avenue that has been there over two weeks, which violates an ordinance. Chief Vance will check on that situation.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Smith stated he had nothing new to report. Chief Vance said the new Police uniform patches had arrived and are being placed on uniforms. He then described the string of phone calls that took place about the tree down due to the wind, on Highland Avenue, resulting in the Mayor handling the tree removal. Chief Vance suggested we acquire an emergency tree removal contact, like the snow removal, because the Mayor or Police cannot always handle the situation. The Mayor said this would be discussed in New Business later in the meeting.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Buehl reported that Mayor had mounted one of the new trash containers on a pad of concrete and he suggested the pad be treated with Thompson seal as part of the installation. He stated that he was tardy in the execution of the remaining installations and would be working on the completion. He saw no further need for cemetery mowing now that there had been frost. The Mayor stated that the current mowing contract with Brian Gaul will be submitted for new bidding in the Spring because Brian Gaul has expressed his desire to exit that contract job.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Vincent stated that the tree debris dumped on Highland Avenue, as discussed earlier, was all he had to report.

Old Business

The Mayor stated that for 2018-2019, Cooke's said that they would do the city's snow removal, as needed, for \$100 an hour, which is what the city paid to Mark James this past winter. The Mayor made the motion to use Cooke's for the 2018-2019 winter snow removal, as needed, at \$100 an hour. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5 -0.

The Mayor told the group that, today, Attorney Moore had provided a letter explaining that any potential amendment(s) made to the contractual Franchise Agreement with the SCRTC and City would require the board of commissioners and SCRTC, and through

their attorneys, to enter into negotiations concerning any amendment. Each commissioner was given this letter to review. The Mayor then turned the discussion of the SCRTC Franchise Agreement topic over to Commissioner Vincent who stated there are still folks he is hearing from, who are displeased with the SCRTC equipment building project. He explained that the Franchise Agreement does not include any language stating the need for a building. He stated several options that the effected homeowners had discussed about actions to air their displeasure with the location of the building and its access via alleys. Of those ideas, he determined that the best action was to request that the alley along his property and other neighbors be closed permanently. There was pro and con discussion on the effect this action would have on other property owners and the SCRTC staff who needed to access the building. Commissioner Vincent stated that on page 3 of the Franchise Agreement with the SCRTC, it states that the city reserves the right to control and regulate the use of the City streets, roads, alleys, etc. With that in mind he suggested that the City meet with Attorney Moore to propose in writing, a letter to be sent to SCRTC, recommending the closure of the alley from the rear of the property purchased by SCRTC to Main Street and leave the alley from Rumsey to the SCRTC building open for use. Commissioner Buehl made a motion to proceed with a meeting with Attorney Moore to propose a letter to SCRTC recommending the closure of the alley from Vincent Street and leave the Rumsey Street access alley open. Commission Smith seconded the motion. There was discussion from the Mayor who said the city needed to consider the cost of this undertaking and Mr. Albert Rich added that there are many stipulations involving utilities, businesses, legalities to cover in closing a roadway/alley. The motion carried with a vote of 3 in favor and 2 against.

New Business

Mayor Stiffey explained the need for tree trimming and clean up on Brown Street and in the First Street and Hedge Street areas. Both areas were bid by Runner's Landscape at \$1250 each for a total of \$2500. This contractor is properly licensed and is interested in receiving emergency tree removal call work. Commissioner Vincent made a motion to use the Runner's Landscape for their proposed bid on the clean up and for emergency tree removal calls. The Mayor seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5 – 0.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED



DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST



NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE

11-26-18

Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk.