

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, January 23, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Franks, and Assistant City Clerk Paula Sleeman

Members Absent: Commissioner Bob Buehl, Asst. Chief Rick Bessette

Recognized Guests: Jesse Varner, Fire Chief Kenneth Priddy, and Todd Chamberlain, Republic Services

Invocation was given by Paula Sleeman

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2022 or Special Meeting Minutes of January, 10, 2023. With no additions or revisions, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – December 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. The Treasurer's Report was approved by 4-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey said that things are currently running smoothly and nothing to additional report.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated that he and Mayor Stiffey had recently replaced some of the street signs.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader stated that he and Chief Franks attended FEMA training at BRADD and both will also be attending CEDS training later in the month . Chief Franks stated that he would have the yearly summary ready to report at the February Regular Commission Meeting.

Cemetery Report

With Commissioner Buehl's absence the Mayor stated that there was some clean-up at the cemetery last week after the strong winds.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Cartwright stated there was nothing new to report. Chief Franks stated that he had met with Joe Manning with Code Enforcement regarding the property at 214 S. Main Street and they will be sending a notice of enforcement.

Mayor Stiffey asked City Attorney Hamp Moore to give an update on the status of the property at 5th and Main Street. Attorney Moore stated that there had been construction of a car port on this property

over a year ago that impeded the right of way on the street. Attorney Moore continued to explain that this property had been issued a notice of violation, a citation, and ultimately the violation and citation were affirmed at a hearing and a fine was imposed at that time. The residents continue to ignore the violation and refuse to pay the accruing fines and consequently a lien was filed on the property for non-payment of the fines. The structure remains at this time and there is currently construction being performed on the structure to enclose it.

Attorney Moore said that the City is at the point where a decision needs to be made regarding foreclosure on the property and the residents cited for contempt of court. Attorney Moore will appear in front of the Code Enforcement board with these recommendations and encouraged the City of Smiths Grove to participate in these proceedings. Commissioner Marr added that the resident was first notified of the code violation on November, 9, 2020 and the building permit was denied for five reasons but the resident proceeded with construction of the non-compliant structure.

A citizen in attendance asked if the impeding structure leaves the city liable for any incidents involving it and Mayor Stiffey said that it is in the City's favor that there is a paper trail of the attempts to have the resident remediate the structure.

Mayor Stiffey asked Attorney Moore to provide an update on the status of this issue at the February Regular Commission meeting.

Old/New Business

An Addendum to the Republic Services Franchise Agreement was read by Mayor Stiffey. The Addendum will allow for a price increase to trash removal. Mayor Stiffey stated that there has been no significant price increase to this service for ten years and Todd Chamberlain with Republic Services added that the cost increase is primarily driven by inflation. There was motion made by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the Addendum and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
PAULA SLEEMAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 2-27-2023
Minutes were prepared by Paula Sleeman, Assistant City Clerk