

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Mayor David Stiffey, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Assistant Police Chief Rick Bessette, Assistant City Clerk, Debbie Joyner

Members Absent: Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright and Chief Jason Franks

Invocation was given by Cole Bessette

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 March 27, 2023. With no additions or revisions, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report – March 2023**

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

**Administration Report**

Mayor Stiffey announced that Assistant Clerk Paula Sleeman has given her notice due to the arrival of her granddaughter and her father's health issues. Mayor Stiffey asked that all remember Paula's family as her father deals with pneumonia. Mayor Stiffey stated that Chief Franks had given him Amber Upchurch's name as possibly being interested in employment with the City. Mayor Stiffey contacted Ms. Upchurch and he and City Clerk Nancy Howard interviewed her on April 18. Mayor Stiffey made the motion to hire Ms. Upchurch to take Assistant Clerk Sleeman's position at a pay rate of \$16 per hour. Commissioner Marr seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote. Mayor Stiffey stated that City Clerk Howard would contact Ms. Upchurch to set a date for training to begin next week.

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr stated that there are problems with Windstream utility poles and lines. A pole between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets, in the alley, is broken off and he contacted Windstream March 25 and April 4 and both times was told the pole would be repaired ASAP. As of today, the pole has not been repaired. Commissioner Marr stated he had reported low hanging lines on Lawson Street to Windstream and they have not been repaired. Commissioner Marr spoke with Porter Martin and he suggested if repairs aren't made in two weeks, that the Public Service Commission be contacted. Commissioner Marr stated paving bids will be going out soon. He also reported that some of the LED replacement lights have turned purple and WRECC plans to change those out.

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

Commissioner Schroader stated that Chief Franks is in Pikeville, KY in training this week. Commissioner Schroader reported that for the first time a prescription drug take back initiative was held at City Hall on Saturday, April 22 and five citizens dropped off prescription drugs. Commissioner Schroader reported that he and Chief Franks are working on next year's Police budget and will have it ready for the Mayor by May 3. Assistant Chief Bessette stated that home kits to dispose of prescription drugs were available and they are easy to use. Assistant Chief Bessette stated there have been some burglaries in the area and there was an overdose on Laurel Avenue last week. He reminded everyone of the Good Samaritan Law which means if you call in an overdose to 911, you cannot be charged.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Buehl reported that the flag pole pulley is not working correctly and new parts will need to be ordered. Mayor Stiffey reported that SCRTC has been assisting with removal of parts from the flag pole and they will install new parts once they are received. Commissioner Buehl noted that the Chapel pews' varnish is peeling and flaking bad enough to look into refurbishing them. He will get quotes for the refinishing of the pews. He also reported that mowing at the cemetery looks good and he has a greater appreciation for our cemetery after visiting cemeteries in the Atlanta area. Mayor Stiffey reported that the City has received approximately \$8,000 in cemetery improvement donations to date. Everyone thinks Brian & Judy Gaul are doing a great job keeping the cemetery mowed and maintained.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Mayor Stiffey stated Code Enforcement could be a fulltime job for our Police officers. He stated grass should be mowed to 10" or less and grass is not to be blown on streets or sidewalks due to it being a hazard to bikes and motorcycles. He reminded everyone that all golf carts should have permits and they should not be operated on Main Street because it is a state highway. Drivers are allowed to cross Main Street only. Mayor Stiffey reported that notices have been issued to businesses near I-65 regarding trash and litter. Assistant Chief Bessette reported that he issued a 10 day notice on Sunday, April 23 and he will deliver another one tomorrow. Mayor Stiffey reminded everyone to be conscientious of your neighbors and keep your property maintained. Commissioner Marr stated it may be time for the City to enact a leash law. Assistant Chief Bessette reported that an animal nuisance citation was issued last week. Attorney Moore stated that he could prepare an ordinance for a leash law at the Mayor's instruction. Mayor Stiffey asked Attorney Moore about multiple vehicles on a property and he said that Warren County Fiscal Court has an ordinance that addresses that. Attorney Moore gave an update on the property located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets that has a portion of a structure on the City's right-of-way. Warren County Code Enforcement Board has cited the property owner and the property owner paid fines of approximately \$9,000. The property owner is aware that he is still in violation and fines continue to be assessed. Attorney Moore will check with the county to see if a citation for the second offense has been issued. Attorney Moore stated a portion of the structure will need to be demolished for the property owner to be in compliance. It was also reported that the same property owner has a storage building that was constructed on the right of way on the alley behind his property.

No Committee reports.

**New Business**

Approve purchase of two chainsaws \$275 each – total of \$550

Mayor Stiffey stated that two chainsaws have been purchased for cleanup after weather events.

Commissioner Marr made the motion to approve the purchase of the chainsaws and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The motion passed by 4-0 vote. Mayor Stiffey reported that one of the large trees in front of City Hall needs to be cut down and the chainsaws will be used for that. He also stated the carport behind City Hall is in the process of being secured in the ground.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED   
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST   
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE May 22, 2023  
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk.