

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 7:00PM**

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant Chief Rick Bessette, City Clerk Nancy Howard

Members Absent: Commissioner Bob Buehl

Invocation was given by Commissioner Marr  
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2023. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurers Report – May 2023**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cartwright to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Schroader. The Treasurers Reports were approved by 4-0 vote.

**Administration Report**

Mayor Stiffey gave a summary of storm damage from the early morning hours of June 26, 2023. There was damage to trees and small structures, utility lines are down, streets blocked by fallen trees, and not all electricity has been restored as of this time. Mayor Stiffey reported he had spoken with Warren County Judge Executive Doug Gorman to get direction on how to get assistance from FEMA for disaster relief funds. The Mayor reported that Assistant Chief Bessette had documented 50 properties with significant damage. He stated WRECC is working diligently to restore electricity as soon as possible.

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr stated he received bids for paving from Scotty's in the amount of \$123,695. Each year the city paves some streets. This year we asked for bids on; Lawson from Highland to the end, Kentucky St. from Laurel to pole near railroad tracks, Wayne Street from 6<sup>th</sup> to Broadway. Commissioner Marr proposed that we postpone paving of Beeler Avenue and Broadway which will bring the bid amount to \$65,000 (for 3 streets- Lawson, Kentucky & Wayne) which is within budget. Commissioner Marr made a motion to accept the bid for \$65,000 and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The bid was approved by 4-0 vote to spend approximately \$65,000. The Mayor added an estimated amount bid on the older cemetery part will be paid by the Cemetery Improvement Fund.

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

Commissioner Schroader deferred to Chief Franks for his comments. Chief Franks mentioned the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Warren County Sheriff is being reviewed and terms updated for renewal. The agreement covers the relationship between the Warren Co. Sheriff Department for dispatch and support requirements.

### Cemetery Report

Mayor Stiffey reported there were tree issues from the storm in the cemetery. Fred Wurst, with the help of Brian and Judy Gaul cleaned up the majority of the damage. Some ornamental trees were lost. Mayor Stiffey commented on the intensity of the storm in that Commissioner Buehl's large, well set personal monument in the cemetery was blown over.

### Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Cartwright stated that significant progress has been made with outstanding code violations. Chief Franks reported that Patsy Pillow has hired someone to mow her property. He also stated that 476 Cave Street is empty at this time but a family member is mowing. Chief Franks reported that Jason Mills who is owner of property on Witherspoon Street has been cited after no progress in 14 days to bring the property into compliance. Fines will be issued. Junk cars left on property will be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

Mayor Stiffey recognized Sherry Murphy from BG Area Convention & Visitors Bureau who was a guest of Jessie Varner. Ms. Murphy suggested that we take a fresh look at entry ways to enhance tourism. She mentioned Operation Pride and the work they had done on fence rows and plantings. She is hoping Smiths Grove will do the same for our exit. She is happy to be of help in planning stages.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Stiffey stated that the first reading of 2023-2024 Annual Budget Ordinance 2023-01 was approved at the May 22, 2023 meeting by a vote of 5-0. He said since that time the Scotty bid was received and it is significantly higher than anticipated. With that in mind, he has conferred with Attorney Moore on making a revision to the Street Expense by increasing it \$20,000. Attorney Moore confirmed that the additional amount is not a substantial or material change and therefore meets the KRS requirements. The second reading of the 2023-2024 Budget as revised is in compliance with a motion to accept the Budget by Commissioner Marr and a second from Commissioner Cartwright. The Budget was approved by 4- 0 vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor proposed spending approximately \$1840, in this year's budget for a new Police desktop computer with the ability to burn/read video material as needed for Police investigations. The current Police PC can be used to replace the Clerks' old PC. The Mayor made a motion to purchase the PC, Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion, and the vote was 4-0 to approve.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED

  
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DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST

  
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NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE

7-24-2023

Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk