

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023 7:00PM**

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

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, Commissioner Bob Buehl, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant Chief Rick Bessette, Assistant City Clerk Debbie Joyner

Members Absent: Commissioner Eric Schroader

Invocation was given by Assistant Chief Rick Bessette  
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey recognized visitor Gilbert Mischel, Field Representative for Senator Mitch McConnell

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2023. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurers Report – June 2023**

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

**Administration Report**

Mayor Stiffey stated he would present the Administration Report later in the meeting.

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr stated it was another busy month due to the June storm damage. He thanked everyone for their help with cleanup efforts. Commissioner Marr reported that he will be contacting Scotty's regarding paving bids for various City streets. He stated he had held off contacting them until it was determined how much the City would have to pay for storm damage expenses. Commissioner Marr reported that there will be sidewalk repairs needed after all trees are removed from the damaged sidewalks. Mayor Stiffey reported he had spoken with a representative at WRECC regarding street lights at Buc-ee's and they are currently working on a cost estimate for the project. Mayor Stiffey also thanked everyone for their help during the cleanup efforts after the June storm. Commissioner Marr asked everyone with hanging limbs on their property to please take care of those as soon as possible.

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

Chief Franks thanked Don & Connie Laws, Fire Chief Kenneth Priddy, and former Commissioner Steve Roney for their help with the storm cleanup efforts. Commissioner Marr thanked the Mayor, Chief Franks, and Assistant Chief Bessette for their hard work and stated they had saved the City a good amount of money by doing the work themselves instead of hiring a vendor.

## **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Buehl reported that damage at the cemetery was minimal with the exception of his personal headstone. He also thanked the Mayor and Fred Wurst for their work at the cemetery after the storm. Commissioner Buehl recognized community member Jerry Bratcher who provided a tractor to help with cleanup. Commissioner Buehl recognized his mother, Suzanne Givens, who attended the Commission meeting and wished her a happy birthday.

## **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Cartwright thanked Chief Franks for his help with storm cleanup and also his efforts with Code Enforcement. She stated that it is important to give grace to folks that don't have the means to clear downed trees from their property. Chief Franks reported he will be meeting with Patsy Pillow this week regarding her rental properties. He also stated he has been in contact with Mr. Mills who is the owner of rental property on Witherspoon. Chief Franks reported cleanup of the property is in progress. Mayor Stiffey thanked Assistant Chief Bessette for his help with securing the carport in back of City Hall. Mayor Stiffey mentioned junk cars on property in Smiths Grove and deferred to Attorney Moore for comments. Attorney Moore stated it is a matter of enforcing Warren County and Smiths Grove codes that are already on the books. Attorney Moore stated he would like for James Heady of the City County Planning Commission to take a look at the property on Main Street with inoperable vehicles. He stated if Mr. Heady determines there is a violation, he will notify the property owner. Attorney Moore said he will provide an update at the August Commission meeting. Mayor Stiffey reported that the issue with parking at Main & Second Streets has been addressed and has improved. Commissioner Marr stated that property owners with inoperable vehicles in their back yards need to be addressed also.

Gilbert Mischel from Senator McConnell's office introduced himself and gave a brief overview of Senator McConnell's international, national, and state priorities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Stiffey stated that approval is needed for purchase of battery packs and cartridges for the Police Department tasers in the amount of \$602.60 from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Commissioner Buehl asked what the life span of batteries for the tasers is and Chief Franks reported that it is approximately 2 years. Commissioner Buehl made a motion to approve the purchase and Commissioner Cartwright seconded. The purchase was approved by 4 -0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey presented invoice #WBG360732 from ISTT Inc. in the amount of \$693.13 for approval. He stated this is for installation of the new computer for the Police Department and the installation charge was not included on the initial invoice for the computer. Commissioner Cartwright made a motion to approve the purchase and Commissioner Buehl seconded. The purchase was approved by 4 -0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey presented a spreadsheet of storm damage cleanup expenses compiled by City Clerk Nancy Howard and thanked her for her efforts. Mayor Stiffey stated the amount for bills paid and to be paid is \$11,723.98 which does not include city staff hours. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve payment of storm related cleanup expenses and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The payments were approved by 4 -0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey stated that he would like to see the Commission increase the hourly rates for Chief Jason Franks and Assistant Chief Rick Bessette. He reported that the City is trying to keep Police Department wages competitive with surrounding agencies and for that reason he made a motion to increase their hourly

rates by \$3 effective July 31, 2023. He stated the increase will begin with hours worked on July 31-August 13, 2023 and new rates will begin to be paid on checks dated August 14, 2023. Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion, and the vote was 4-0 to approve.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey  
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner  
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 8-28-2023  
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk