

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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, Commissioner Eric Schroader, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, City Clerk Nancy Howard

Members Absent: Asst. Chief Rick Bessette

Invocation was given by Debbie Richey, Smiths Grove representative to City/County Planning Commission

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 August 28, 2023. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – August 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Buehl to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Schroader. The Treasurer's Report was approved by 5-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey stated that he and City Clerk Howard worked on moving money from several bank accounts due to a CD coming due and the opportunity to achieve better interest rates. The CD which matured was over the FDIC limit of \$250,000 and was broken into a new CD of \$240,000 at a better rate and an additional CD was opened with the remainder plus the closing balances of the Cemetery Perpetual account and the American Rescue Plan account. The Cemetery Perpetual was no longer a requirement and the 20% of grave sales will be deposited to the Cemetery Improvement Fund. The ARP account funds were moved to the General Fund as Dept. of Treasury revised rules on the fund usage which allows the city to use the balance to fund the hiring of a Police Officer.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the December Commission meeting is rescheduled to December 11th at 5:00pm with a Christmas Potluck to follow at Smiths Grove Baptist Church (to be confirmed). The date was changed in order to accommodate the schedule of the City County Planning Commission which will be finishing a Smiths Grove recommendation just prior to the 11th.

The banners for Christmas Parade on December 1st at 6:00pm have been acquired by Asst. Clerk Joyner and the Methodist men's group will be assisting with the distribution of drinks. The city Message Board/Speeding equipment will be used to promote the Parade. No marching band has accepted the invitation at this time.

The Mayor has been working with Buc-ee's and the Warren County Rural Electric Co. on the street lighting for Buc-ee's Way. Buc-ee's will absorb the initial equipment cost and the city will now only pay \$103 per month utility cost versus the original estimate of \$360 per month (Aug 2023 Minutes).

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr reminded the Commission of the planned paving; Lawson St. from Highland Ave to the end, S. Kentucky St. from Laurel to the electric pole at city limits, all of Wayne St and patch work on Beeler, Lawson/Witherspoon, along with grading alleys. If gravel is required, he will inform the Commission. The Cemetery will have roadways sealed and Jim Burrell St. will be restriped. Commissioner Marr states he will acquire assistance from Chief Franks and the Mayor on re-installing street signs which were damaged in the June storm.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader stated that he and Chief Franks will be taking the Police vehicles to L & W Technology for repair on the black Ram truck, installation of non-breakable safety window barriers on both trucks and the replacement striping on the Ford SUV. The Toughbook computer equipment is ready for pickup in advance of the hiring of the third Police Officer.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Buehl reported that the cemetery mowing has tapered down and that he is still in process of restoring a few headstones.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Cartwright thanked Chief Franks for his Code Enforcement log stating that a few issues had been resolved and a few more acquired. The auto body shop has made progress in removing junk vehicles. The Mayor stated that he had been involved in discussions with 3 different property owners regarding having a temporary trailer on their property. One owner, on Main Street, has located their trailer in the back of their property and will be allowed a period of time in order for their storm damaged house to be demolished and replaced. The other two properties will require follow-up by the Mayor as they are not in compliance.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Steffy introduced the second reading for both Property Tax Ordinances;
2023-002 Ordinance Annual Assessing and Levying the 2023 Annual Property Tax on Real Property and Tangible Personal Property within the City of Smiths Grove, KY-
 - RE- .114 cents per \$100 assessed valuation
 - Tangible - .1313 cents per \$100 assessed valuation
- Ordinance 2023-003 Annual Assessing and Levying the 2023-2024 Annual Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft having a Situs in the City of Smiths Grove, KY.
 - .20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation

Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2023-002 and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The Ordinance was approved by 5-0 vote. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-003 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The Ordinance 2023-003 was approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Steffy introduced Ordinance 2023-004 Closing Right-of-Way off Laurel Street abutting to Maple Avenue. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-004 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The Ordinance 2023-004 was approved by 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Steffy introduced the Police Equipment purchases of \$ \$2745.80 for a Toughbooks computer/scanner for the anticipated third Police Officer, \$1428.80 for Window Barriers in each of

the Ram trucks, and the \$1050.00 cost to replace the worn out striping on the Ford SUV- all through L & W Technology. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the total cost of \$5224.60 and Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion. The expenditures were approved by 5-0 vote. Mayor Stiffey noted that the City had budgeted for a third RAM truck but could not purchase the truck due to lack of production. Chief Franks explained that the Special Service trucks are unique for Police forces and there was a shortage of production. Mayor Stiffey stated that the city will transfer \$15,000 of the budgeted \$80k from the General Fund to the Vehicle Replacement fund for next year planning.

Mayor Stiffey introduced a \$14,925.00 bid from Reynolds Seal & Striping was acquired for sealing of the Cemetery roads and made a motion to approve the expense. Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion and the expense was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey introduced the bid of \$2550 from The Tree Co. (formerly TreeKO) for tree trimming along various city streets to clear limbs overhanging streets. Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve the expense and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The expense was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Debbie Richey congratulated Chief Jason Franks on being nominated for WBKO Hometown Hero and all joined in congratulating Chief Franks.

Commissioner Marr asked Attorney Moore for an update on the Code Enforcement issue on a Main Street property. The Warren Co. Code Enforcement board has not met for the last 3 months and the hearing will be in October.

Mayor Stiffey announced Smiths Grove Halloween Trick-or-Treat will be on Oct. 31st from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED




DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST



NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE



Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk