

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023 7:00PM

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Assistant Chief Rick Bessette

Invocation was given by Mayor Stiffey

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 October 23, 2023. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mayor Stiffey introduced our Warren County Parks and Recreation guests, Director Chris Kummer and Operations Coordinator Jade Grabeel who presented the plan for the PACE Marathon to be held in Smiths Grove on May 11, 2024. The marathon begins at 7:00am and ends in Ed Spear Park. This marathon is planned as a traveling event to be hosted by a different area of Warren County each year with the goal of bringing in new tourism dollars. Area businesses, churches and other entities can sponsor portions of the marathon miles by volunteering help or drinks/snacks. There will be an evening Runner Packet Pick-up Event at Ed Spear Park on May 10th with a Block Party type venue including a DJ, snacks and opportunity for sponsors to set up informational tables. The goal is to have 50-75 runners for this first time Warren Co. event. Jade Grabeel provided an informational packet and her business card for questions and info distribution. Mayor Stiffey thanked WCPR for their assistance with the storm damage in June/July and for their presentation.

Mayor Stiffey introduced our CPA, Steven Throneberry of Hensley & Throneberry to present the 2022-2023 Audit Report. Steven stated that the City of Smiths Grove received a “clean and unqualified assurance” of a good report on the City’s financial standing. He commended the City and Clerks on their efficient recordkeeping which speeds the audit process. Steven pointed out specific pages of the report for the Commission and explained any entries that Commissioners had questions about. Overall the city net position increased by \$290,258 for the year ending June 30, 2023. Commissioner Marr made a motion to accept the Audit Report as read with Commissioner Schroader and Cartwright seconding. The audit report was approved with a 5-0 vote.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – October 2023

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

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey stated that the Parade is scheduled for this coming Friday, December 1st at 6:00pm and rain has been forecast. He said that he will keep a watch on the weather and that if the weather is too bad the parade would be cancelled and not rescheduled. The Mayor said due to the upcoming holidays the next Commission meeting will be held on December 11th at 5:00pm with a Staff Christmas Party to follow at 6:00pm at the Smiths Grove Baptist Church.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr reported that the planned paving has been delayed to the spring of 2024 and that the sidewalk damages due to the June storm have now been repaired.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader stated there will be a street clean-up project on Nov 30th in preparation for the parade. Chief Franks said they would start around 9am.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Buehl stated he intends to check on the battery backups in the Cemetery Chapel. Mayor Stiffey stated that the mowing is done for the year and there will be discussion on trees to be planted in the Cemetery, in the future.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Cartwright reported that there is still on-going storm clean-up issues. She asked Chief Franks to provide an update on the Main Street property where the destroyed house is needing removal. Discussion ensued about the owners receipt of insurance funds, scheduling of the demolition and estimated clean up timeframe. It was determined that Chief Franks would follow-up on that timeframe schedule to ensure the city does not incur any cost due to failure of the owners to execute the removal of the house and debris. Attorney Hamp Moore stated that a demolition permit is required by Warren Co. and that is the first step in the Code Enforcement process for this situation. Chief Franks stated that Mills Property who owns lots on Witherspoon St. has finally cleaned up 14 felled trees and complied with Code Enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Stiffey presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-005 -Amended City Ordinance Pertaining to Mobile Homes. This Ordinance repeals the 1972 Ordinance 72.2-9204, amends and readopts the language for no mobile homes and/or no use of a recreational vehicle as a residence within the City of Smiths Grove. Commissioner Schroader made the motion to approve the Ordinance as read with Commissioner Buehl seconding. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the Ordinance.

Mayor Stiffey presented the invoice for cost of \$5,946.50 for new body camera equipment to be used by our future Police Officer. Commissioner Cartwright made a motion to approve the purchase cost and Commissioner Schroader seconded. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the cost.

Mayor Stiffey presented the cost for 2 new Police vests, replace Chief Franks and one new for a future Officer at \$2810 to be approved. Chief Franks explained that the vests expire after 5 years and are now custom fitted. The Mayor made the motion to approve the purchase and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the purchase.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED *David L. Stiffey*
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST *Nancy Howard*
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE *12-11-23*
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk