

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 5:00PM

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Bob Buehl, City Attorney Hamp Moore
Invocation was given by Linda White, Pastor of Smiths Grove First Christian Church
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 November 27, 2023. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mayor Stiffey recognized members of Smiths Grove First Christian Church who were in attendance. Mayor Stiffey introduced new Smiths Grove police officer, Hany Elhubishi, his wife Sydni, and their sons Milo and Asher. Mayor Stiffey stated that Hany's first day of service will be January 3, 2024.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – November 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 4-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey reported that increases to employee health insurance rates have been received. Mayor Stiffey proposed that the City pay \$1,850 per month for each officer effective January 1, 2024. The current rate the City pays is \$1,615. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to pay the increased rates and Commissioner Marr seconded the motion. The Commission voted 4-0 to approve the cost. Mayor Stiffey reported that the Christmas parade went well and no one was injured.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr thanked Mayor Stiffey and SCRTC for hanging the Christmas lights on light poles in Smiths Grove.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader stated he had nothing to report and deferred to Chief Franks. Chief Franks recognized Smiths Grove citizen Nick Harp and thanked him for his countless hours of help with various cleanup projects and the Christmas parade. Chief Franks stated that Nick is always willing to help the community in any way possible.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the trailer that was purchased from Shawn Smith cannot be licensed so the trailer has been returned to Mr. Smith and he will reimburse the City the purchase price.

Cemetery Report

Mayor Stiffey stated that Chief Franks checked the Cemetery chapel and there are issues with leaks and they are possibly around the steeple.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Cartwright deferred to Chief Franks who reported that the Cave Street properties have been cleared of storm damage. Chief Franks stated that the contractor on the Main Street house that was damaged during the storm is waiting on an asbestos abatement official to check the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Stiffey stated that there is a tree near City Hall, closer to the building, that needs to be taken down. Mayor Stiffey stated he had received a quote from The Tree Company in the amount of \$900.

Commissioner Marr made a motion to approve the removal of the tree and Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The motion passed by 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Marr thanked Mayor Stiffey, Chief Franks, and Assistant Chief Bessette for taking down a tree in the front of City Hall.

Mayor Stiffey reported that Assistant Chief Rick Bessette’s picture was on the front of the December 7, 2023 Daily News. Assistant Chief Bessette was participating in “Shop with a Cop”.

Mayor Stiffey reported that the new Police officer Elhubishi will need a portable radio. Mayor Stiffey reported that Chief Franks has spoken with Motorola and the price of the radio and necessary equipment is \$4,518.81, Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the purchase cost and Commissioner Marr seconded. The vote was 4-0 to approve the cost.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the time of the meeting to hire and swear in Officer Elhubishi on January 2, 2024 needs to be set. The Commission set the time of the meeting at 6:00 pm. Mayor Stiffey stated that the badge pinning ceremony for Officer Elhubishi will take place during the regular January 22, 2024 Commission meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Debbie Joyner
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 1-22-24
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk