

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 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 Eric Schroader, Commissioner Bob Buehl, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, Assistant City Clerk Debbie Joyner

Members Absent: None

Invocation was given by Sgt. Rick Bessette

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey recognized visitor Teresa Blair of Grammie's Home Cookin which will be opening in May in Smiths Grove.

Mayor Stiffey asked everyone to keep Smiths Grove citizen Carolyn Saltsman's family in your prayers due to her passing earlier in the day.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurers Report – March 2024**

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

Mayor Stiffey recognized Ben Peterson and Rachel Hurt of City-County Planning Commission and asked them for a summary of zoning ordinance changes.

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr reported that street lights continue to turn blue. Commissioner Marr reported that Scotty's plans to do prep work this week on Wayne and Lawson Streets, Kentucky Street to Laurel North, prior to paving, and grade work on alleys. Commissioner Marr stated there is a hole on Lawson Street near Witherspoon that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Marr stated while Scotty's has their equipment in Smiths Grove, it would be beneficial to pave Broadway and Beeler Streets and pay after July 1 from next years budget. Commissioner Marr suggested that paving on Wayne Street and grading the gravel alleys be done when school is not in session to avoid problems with school traffic.

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

Commissioner Schroader deferred to Chief Franks who stated there are concerns about increased traffic on city streets due to an increase of business in Smiths Grove. Chief Franks reported that BRADD has informed him that grants are available and information from previous traffic studies may be used to apply for them. Smiths Grove citizen Connie Law asked if there would be another round-a-bout and Mayor Stiffey stated that the City hasn't received details from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Chief Franks stated that the backup generator for City Hall is moving forward. Commissioner Buehl asked if natural gas

is available at City Hall and the Mayor responded yes. Chief Franks reported that the cost to add two cameras to City Hall including installation is approximately \$760. Chief Franks stated that additional storage is needed for bulk evidence items. Deputy Chief Hany Elhubishi reported that a storage pod that is metal, not wood, would be approximately \$2,500. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to purchase a storage pod with a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion and the motion passed by 5 – 0 vote.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Buehl reported that sealing will be done on all of the drives in the Cemetery and this will require closing the Cemetery to any traffic for a 2-day period for the sealant to sufficiently dry.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Cartwright stated that Chief Franks has been spent much time asking folks to mow their properties. Chief Franks reminded everyone that the Community Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 4 and interested parties should meet at City Hall at 8:30 am. This is one week before Smiths Grove hosts the PACE MARATHON which has a block party at Ed Spear Park on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and the Marathon which is May 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00am. Chief Franks asked everyone to be a good neighbor and mow your grass. Commissioner Cartwright asked Attorney Moore if he had an update on the Fifth Street property and he said he should have an update in July. Chief Franks stated he spoke with Rachel Hurt at City County Planning Commission and she had spoken to a person who lives in a RV in Smiths Grove and she told him that is not allowed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chief Franks stated the final bill from L&W Emergency Equipment for the light bar for the 2016 Ford Explorer which includes wiring is \$2,732. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the purchase and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The motion passed by 5 – 0 vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and approval of the Warren County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Mutual Aid Agreement  
The Mayor and Chief Franks met with Warren County Sheriff Brett Hightower regarding the Sheriff's office dispatching for SGPD. The initial request from the County was for \$36,000 per year to be used for dispatcher salary. The final amount agreed upon was \$1,350 per month (\$16,200 per year). Chief Franks stated this came about because of growth in our area. The City uses the County's equipment for criminal histories, etc. at no cost. Chief Franks stated the City must be given 90 days notice for an increase and he feels this is a reasonable request. Commissioner Cartwright also stated that she felt it was reasonable. Commissioner Schroader made the motion to approve payment to the County of \$26,000 per year and Commissioner Marr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote.
2. Discussion and approval of temporary clerk pay as needed. Mayor Stiffey stated that his wife, Diane, had to cover City Hall when Clerk Howard and Assistant Clerk Joyner were out of the office. Attorney Moore stated he is aware of no City ordinance which prohibits hiring of relatives. Mayor Stiffey stated he hates to keep asking his wife and this would be on a part-time, limited basis. Commissioner Cartwright made the motion to establish temporary clerk pay at a rate of \$12 per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader and passed by 4 – 0 vote. The Mayor abstained from voting.
3. Resolution 2024-003 Obligation of Remaining ARP Funds to Provision of Government Services.  
Mayor Stiffey made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The motion passed by 5 – 0 vote.

Teresa Blair stated she is excited to open Grammie's Home Cookin in Smiths Grove but does have concerns about parking. Breakfast and lunch will be available Monday-Saturday with catfish on Friday nights.

Chief Franks reminded everyone about Smiths Grove Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 4.

Several compliments were paid to our outstanding Police Department.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED   
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST   
DEBBIE JOYNER, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

DATE 5-31-2024  
Minutes were prepared by Debbie Joyner, Assistant City Clerk