

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY, JULY 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, City Clerk Nancy Howard

Members Absent: None

Invocation was given by CCPC Smiths Grove Rep. Debbie Richey

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 June 24, 2024. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurers Report – June 2024**

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.

**Administrative Report-**

Mayor Stiffey stated that candidates are being interviewed for the City Clerk full time position which will start as part-time with the goal to have a qualified full-time person in 6 months. The Mayor thanked City County Planning Commission Director Ben Peterson for attending tonight's meeting to field questions about a zoning matter regarding 824 College St. and the unimproved Right-of-Way which is designated as a city street. The property owner chose not to attend the meeting due to a conversation with City Attorney Hamp Moore. Mr. Peterson stated that the CCPC recommends that the City of Smiths Grove keep that ROW for growth development just as it was originally determined. At the original plat design of a sub-division the developer must designate adjoining street access with connectivity, as required. He also stated that Warren County has incurred similar requests from property owners. Attorney Hamp Moore stated that he had spoken today with the son of the property owner explaining that the City stands on the original designation of that city street which now has the driveway of the 824 College St. owner in that easement. Attorney Moore will draft a letter explaining the easement and the allowance for usage to the property owner. If in the future, there is growth that demands use of that city street the City will work with the property owner to revise the easement letter.

Mayor Stiffey asked Mr. Peterson to discuss the CCPC meeting that was held last week regarding a property development application for housing off of Hedge Street. The meeting vote ended in a tie of 2 to 2 therefore the CCPC neither denied nor approved the developer's application. He said that the developer could revise his plan to further reduce the number of houses on the plan or they could request a hearing with the Fiscal Court. Questions from CCPC rep Debbie Richey, Mr. David Marr and Mr. Larry Shobe (Hedge St. property concerns) were fielded by Mr. Peterson. The greatest concern is the amount of houses. 3.6 houses per acre, with only 7 ft. side yards and 10 ft. backyards. Commissioner Buehl stated that The Meadows sub-division started with the developer wanting 99 houses in that sub-division but the City took a stand that ended with only 1/3 the amount. CCPC Ben Peterson stated that the City has authority to

determine how the city grows and has options to either annex the property so as to have more control over the quantity/quality of the houses or to not annex more residential property. Bowling Green has determined not to annex any more new residential building property because the cost of service to the city is higher than the eventual property taxes. Mr. Peterson stated that the cost of additional sewer service is now running \$100K for ½ acre lots which is why developers are trying to build small houses on small lots in order to make the most money.

Mayor Stiffey continued his administrative report by requesting pay increases for both Chief Franks and Deputy Chief Elhubishi of \$1.00 more per hour. The goal is to have the Police positions' pay range spread by position responsibility. Commissioner Schroader made the motion to raise pay by \$1 and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 to approve the raises.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Marr reported that Scotty's completed the paving of Broadway St., Beeler Ave. from 6<sup>th</sup> St to Cemetery, and Harris St.. Commissioner Marr said the only other street work he is expecting is the spraying of street and alley corners for vegetation clearance.

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

Commissioner Schroader had nothing to report. Chief Franks said the Police department has completed necessary training. He informed the group that an extremist group has been traveling through our area of Kentucky leaving propaganda information on cars and in yards. The group has thrown baggies with their info into yards and Chief requests that property owners report that to him. Most people threw away the info and helped picked up the litter. Our city will not tolerate littering nor any push of negative propaganda.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Buehl reported he had checked the chapel and there does not appear to be any roof leakage but there is a need for a storm window on a stained glass window which leaks.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Cartwright stated there continues to be properties that are cited for not mowing. Chief Franks stated that 127 College St., and 355 Laurel St. have received certified letters for non-compliance. He reported that 121 Sunset Avenue has been cited and is expected to appear at next month's Commission meeting. He also said that residents who have corner property are responsible for the clearance of shrubbery for drivers' visibility.

## **NO COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Stiffey stated the final cost for Police 2024 RAM Truck was \$39777. Schroader made the motion to approve the invoice and Commissioner Marr seconded the motion. The Commission voted approved the payment by 5-0. Mayor Stiffey stated the City had updated our Ordinances with the American Legal Publishing Co. for a cost of \$1796.00. Commissioner Buehl made the motion to approve the cost and Mayor Stiffey seconded. The cost was approved by a 5-0 vote.



## NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Stiffey reported that the Police additional camera for the rear of City Hall is \$456 which is less than required for approval. The Mayor made the motion to approve the purchase and cost with Commissioner Buehl seconding the motion and it was approved with a 5 – 0 vote.
2. Mayor Stiffey stated that the paving mentioned by Commissioner Marr is complete with an invoice to pay of \$84,167.25. He also stated that he had put up some speed limit signs on Beeler Ave. Commissioner Marr made the motion to approve the Scotty's invoice with Commissioner Cartwright seconding. The payment was approved by a 5-0 vote.

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

APPROVED David L. Stiffey  
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Nancy Howard  
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE August 26, 2024  
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk