

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, 7:00pm

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commission Patrick Young, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Sergeant Bessette, City Clerks Alice Elkins and Nancy Howard

Members Absent: Chief Franks

Invocation was given by Wesley Hicks

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Minutes of December 9, 2024 and January 9, 2025 were unanimously approved.

The December 2024 Treasurer's report was accepted per Motion by Commissioner Buehl and 2nd by Commissioner Young and a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey welcomed our guests, Drew Hensley, H&T CPAs, Wesley Hicks family and other citizens attending. He welcomed our new Commissioner Patrick Young, who is taking over the Cemetery Dept. and explained that Departments had been assigned; Commissioner Buehl -Streets & Public Works, Commissioner Cartwright continuing in Code Enforcement, Commissioner Schroader continuing in Police & Safety.

Mayor Stiffey introduced our auditor, Drew Hensley, to present the 2023-2024 Audit as completed. The City of Smiths Grove is in good standing per the audit results with a Net Income for the year of 2023-2024 of \$30,832. Mr. Hensley explained that the KY Pension obligation OPEB continues to be a high number as cities share the burden of catching up the unfunded portion of the state KY Pension plan. As other year's final audit statement, the only deficiency is the failure of separation of duties with the limited Clerk staff. This is a deficiency every small city commonly has.

Public Works & Streets- Commissioner Buehl stated that he had replaced damaged street signs at Laurel and Witherspoon. He requested a meeting with Buddy Marr to receive instruction on this new role. He will also meet with the Mayor to discuss the need for sidewalk repair. Mayor Stiffey informed the Commission that he had made arrangements with Matthew Cooke to handle necessary snow removal as needed.

Police & Public Safety- Commissioner Schroader stated that the SG002 (silver) Police Vehicle will be taken to L & W Equipment in Lawrenceburg for re- striping. He has been in contact with BRADD representative, Dajana Crockett, to participate in a Security grant for a Flock license plate reading camera. Sergeant Bessette read the 2024 total Police incidents, 4942, and preceding years' totals which show an increase of more incidents covered by Smiths Grove Police than in 2018. Sgt. Bessette stated that Chief Franks and a hiring committee had interviewed Wesley Hicks and found him qualified for the Police Officer position. Mayor Stiffey introduced Wesley Hicks and wife Savannah to administer the Oath of Office. Officer Hicks will be badge 703 and the pinning ceremony will be next month.

Cemetery – Commissioner Young stated he had met with Commissioner Buehl to get an overview of the cemetery tasks. He found a problem with the Chapel security camera system which required Quality

Security Surveillance to investigate. The hard drive has failed and needs replaced and the system upgraded. The Mayor added that the City Hall security system also needs upgraded which will allow additional cameras and Commissioner Young had presented those costs for review. The Mayor made a motion to approve the purchase of the upgraded system for City Hall, \$1312.97, and the Cemetery \$534.60, with 2nd by Commissioner Buehl. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Code Enforcement – Commissioner Cartwright stated that a 10-day notice to 215 W. Third St for property to be cleaned and it is now completed. The owner of the car wash had been notified about the trash problem blowing from the car wash. Sgt. Bessette reminded everyone that there is no burning of trash within the city. Commissioner Cartwright asked Attorney Moore if there was any update on the property at North Main Street and 5th Street easement issue. He said that due to illness the Marr’s were not able to attend the Warren Co. Code Board meeting scheduled and it was moved to February 2025 on the docket. There is a privacy fence violation issue with the property on Sunset and First Street. We are waiting on the Warren Co. Code Enforcement to issue a violation notice.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the Tree Co. has completed the work on the tree removal at City Hall and made a motion to pay the \$1650 invoice. Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0 to approve.

Mayor Stiffey requested a raise for both the Police officers of \$1 an hour for Chief Franks and Sgt. Bessette. That will take effect on February 10th making Chief Franks pay rate \$34 an hour and Sgt. Bessette pay at \$30 an hour. Officer Hicks will start at \$26 an hour beginning January 28, 2025. Commissioner Schroader made the motion for the dollar an hour raise for the two officers and Commissioner Buehl seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 to approve the raise.

Mayor Stiffey introduced Maurice (Buddy) Marr as the outgoing Commissioner of Public Works & Streets asking him to come forward. The Mayor presented Buddy with an Appreciation of Years of Service plaque from the City and thanked him for his service.

Mayor Stiffey explained the recent bids received for the City Cemetery, City Hall and City Right-of-Ways Mowing contracts. Four businesses submitted bids with a variety of costs which were discussed by the Mayor and Commissioners. The Commission Board tabled the final decision pending further investigation of the bids submitted and their experience with cemetery mowing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE 
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk