

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 7:00pm

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commission Patrick Young, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Chief Franks, Officer Hicks, City Clerk Alice Elkins

Absent:

Invocation was given by Patrick Young

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025. With no changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Buehl to accept the January 2025 Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Young. The Treasurer's Report was approved by 5-0 vote.

Administration Report – Mayor Stiffey went over two expenses. A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to approve the bill for snow plowing during the recent snow payable to Cooke's Lawn Service. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schroader to approve the bill for tires and alignment for Sergeant Bessette's vehicle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Public Works & Streets- Commissioner Buehl stated there was not a lot of activity for the month of January. He did mention that there are plans for 2025 for sidewalk repair.

Police & Public Safety- Commissioner Schroader attended training at BRADD regarding emergency cleanup procedures. He and Chief Franks will be attending FEMA training in the coming week. Commissioner Schroader will also be traveling to Frankfort on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 for City Night to represent Smiths Grove. Commissioner Schroader also commended Officer Wesley Hicks for having a great start in Smiths Grove, he has received positive feedback. Chief Franks also commended Officer Hicks for a strong start for his first month at the Smiths Grove Police Department. He mentioned several instances where Officer Hicks' attention to detail has proved to be a great asset for Smiths Grove.

Cemetery – Commissioner Young stated that the new hard drive that was installed at the cemetery is working properly. He has noticed some water that was coming in the chapel and will get a plan in motion to fix and correct this problem. Commissioner Young also stated that he has been in contact with Matthew Cooke of Cooke's Lawn Care and they will be able to assist the city with cemetery clean up in March.

Code Enforcement – Commissioner Cartwright gave an update on 321 Cave Street. There have been letters sent to owners stating the issue and need for resolution; further action will be taken if owners do not respond. Chief Franks stated there was a letter posted at property and certified mail sent. Chief Franks also reminded everyone with weather changing that burning trash is not allowed in Smiths Grove city limits. Chief Franks also mentioned that there is a plan for a community clean up day at the end of March.

Commissioner Cartwright asked Attorney Moore to update for 5th Street property. The item will be on the Warren County Code Board meeting agenda in March, it was rescheduled from February due to illness and weather. He will be attending the board meeting and will report back. Attorney Moore also confirmed with Commissioners that County Code Enforcement will handle the issue of fence violation on Sunset. The board will issue notice of violation and follow up with citation if no action is taken.

Mayor Stiffey introduced Shery Murphy with Warren County Tourism and Ms. Murphy introduced Jeff Moore who will be planning the new signage for Smiths Grove. There will be essentially 2 projects. The 8 way finding signs will be put in place by Warren County Tourism and Operation Pride will be possibly adding 3 monument signs for Smiths Grove. Mayor Stiffey asked where funding would come from for Operation Pride monument signs, Ms. Murphy responded that these projects are provided by fundraising through Operation Pride. Mr. Moore explained the signs in detail and provided a map and information for each sign. Ms. Murphy stated they are ready to send out for bids if the city commission agreed. All was agreed and the commission was appreciative of all the work for the City of Smiths Grove.

In old business Mayor Stiffey stated that Summit Fire & Safety conducted fire and safety checks at City Hall and Public Safety vehicles and made a motion to pay the invoice of \$384.40 invoice. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl and the vote was 5-0 to approve.

Mayor Stiffey also asked for a motion of approval of bill to Quality Security and Surveillance for \$534.60 for new hard drive equipment for cemetery. A motion was made by Commissioner Buehl to approve the invoice and payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader and the vote was 5-0 to approve.

In new business Mayor Stiffey presented a quote from Display Sales for the purchase of Christmas lights for future use by the city. The quote is for \$4009.98 but Mayor Stiffey mentioned that the purchase price would be less due to not purchasing one of the lights on this quote, should be around \$3400. A motion was made by Commissioner Buehl to approve this purchase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and the vote was 5-0 to approve.

Christopher Lee Bragg was in attendance to appeal a parking violation he had received on February 11, 2025, issued by Chief Franks. He stated his reasons for appeal. Chief Franks was sworn in by Attorney Moore and gave evidence for Violation. A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to disregard Violation 2130 issued by the City of Smiths Grove and issue state citation for parking violation to Mr. Bragg. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader and the vote was 5-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
ALICE ELKINS, CITY CLERK

DATE 
Minutes were prepared by Alice Elkins, City Clerk