

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

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commission Patrick Young, Attorney Hampton Moore, Chief Franks, City Clerk Alice Elkins

Absent: Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright

Invocation was given by Alice Elkins

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 April 28, 2025. Commissioner Schroader noted one change, which will be corrected. The minutes were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schroader to accept the April 2025 Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The Treasurer's Report was approved by 4-0 vote.

Administration Report – Mayor Stiffey mentioned and asked for prayers and thoughts for the Laws family, with the passing of Don Laws.

Public Works & Streets- Commissioner Buehl stated that Mayor Stiffey had been obtaining quotes for street paving and alley work coming in July and possibly repairs to sidewalks. Commissioner Buehl will also be assessing a sinkhole off of Cave Street.

Police & Public Safety- Commissioner Schroader mentioned the PACE Marathon and Block party was a success. He wanted to thank everyone that helped and attended. Commissioner Schroader has attended BRADD CEDS & FEMA training and has several more training courses coming up. Chief Franks did want to extend thanks to KSP, Warren County Sheriff, Smiths Grove Fire Department, Gott Fire Department and Richardsville Fire Department for assistance with the marathon. Jade from Warren County Parks and Recreation also extended thanks to the City of Smiths Grove for the support of the marathon. The number of entries increased from 20 to 80 from last year to this year and hopefully will keep growing. Chief Franks also mentioned that bringing events like this to our city has prompted some updates and upgrades to Ed Spear Park, which were needed. He also mentioned that there are some other events hopefully coming to the area for the summer.

Cemetery – Commissioner Young is still working on getting quotes from the repair of the Chapel. He is expecting several contractors to get back with him. Mowing at the cemetery is going well.

Code Enforcement – Chief Franks stated he was having a better response from landowners in the area regarding mowing. He wanted to thank all of our surrounding residents and businesses for their work with road cleanup during the recent storms.

Mayor Stiffey did mention that Jessie Varner dropped off the Aging Council minutes from their previous meeting, these are available at City Hall if anyone would like to review.

Mayor Stiffey proceeded with old business of the second and final reading of Ordinance 2025-001 regarding the keeping of Livestock within the City. After reading, Commissioner Schroader made a motion to accept the second and final reading of Ordinance 2025-001 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote.

The Mayor proceeded with new business with the discussion of the quote from GUTS software for property tax collection as the system we currently use will be discontinuing their services. We will still have access to previous years but will no longer support new tax years. Other than the one-time fee of \$4,940 (which will be \$4,450 due to not having to carry over years) the annual fee is only about \$200 more per year than we are currently paying. Mayor Stiffey made a motion to approve the purchase of the new property tax collection software (GUTS). Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey read Municipal Order 2025-002 Authorizing the payment of funds to the Smiths Grove Fire Department. This \$7500 was received from Buc-ee's through the PILOT agreement that was made for the City of Smiths Grove to accept no less than \$7500 per year in lieu of taxes. There was previous discussion regarding the use of these funds, and it was determined that these funds will go to the Smiths Grove Fire Department to assist with equipment purchase and necessary supplies for public health and safety due to increased calls due to Buc-ee's. This money has been added to the upcoming budget so it will be paid out to the Smiths Grove Fire Department after July 1, 2026. Commissioner Buehl made a motion to accept and approve the reading of Municipal Order 2025-002 Authorizing the payment of funds to the Smiths Grove Fire Department from Buc-ee's PILOT agreement. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey stated the issue of closing the alley way at 1st and Sunset. This alley way has not been used in years. The landowner, Jon Young has agreed to take on the cost to be able to take this alley way over and take care of the upkeep. This alleyway also borders land belonging to Chad Elkins (which is farmland). If this alleyway is closed, each of the landowners will split the alley way (or divide how they agree upon). Mayor Stiffey asked Attorney Moore regarding the steps to take to start this process. Attorney Moore stated that we would need an Ordinance that will be approved by first and second reading for approval. With that stated, Commissioner Buehl made a motion for approval to state the process to close the alleyway at 1st and Sunset, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroader. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote and will proceed next month with an Ordinance.

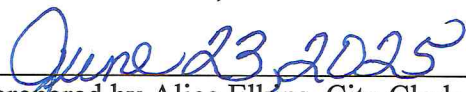
Mayor Stiffey then proceeded with the last item of business. Mayor Stiffey read the Mayor's Budget Message to the Commissioners and attendees of the meeting. Mayor Stiffey then read the first reading of Ordinance 2025-002 Establishing the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Schroeder made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2025-002. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote. There will be a second reading of this Ordinance at the next regular commission meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025.

Before adjournment, Commissioner Schroeder mentioned that the county road department was in the process of paving McKinley Road, Smiths Grove Oakland Road and Little Knob Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED 
DAVID STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST 
ALICE ELKINS, CITY CLERK

DATE 
Minutes were prepared by Alice Elkins, City Clerk