

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025, 7:00pm

Mayor Stiffey called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

Absent: none

Invocation was given by Diana Stiffey

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 June 23, 2025. With no changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Administration Report – Mayor Stiffey noted that he had nothing to report for administration.

Public Works & Streets- Commissioner Buehl stated that he was preparing to meet with Mayor Stiffey regarding scheduling the road repairs and paving. He noted there are some sidewalks that need repair and a section of sidewalk that needs to be added.

Police & Public Safety- Commissioner Schroader mentioned Officer Hicks was completing training this week, and Chief Franks was still in process of the Audit. Chief Franks reported that active shooter training was completed last week. Officer Hicks completed his instructor taser certificate. Chief Franks mentioned that marathon monthly meetings are picking up again this month. He introduced Jade Gabreel with Parks presenting the marathon to the commission for the 3rd year. Ms. Gabreel was contacted by Smiths Grove Library wanting to bring a 5K option that will be run separately by the library on the same day as the marathon and half-marathon. She reported they are not planning on changing the route to the half-marathon or marathon as this year's route worked out well. The library hosted a 5K earlier this year with around 180 participants so if we combine, it will possibly increase the growth of both races. Ms. Gabreel extended appreciation to the city for hosting the PACE marathon for the past 2 years. Mayor Stiffey asked if the 5K would utilize the same volunteers and resources as the marathon. Ms. Gabreel stated that the library would have its own staff (8 people) and they would share resources, however; the 5K would be a very short route as it is only around 3 miles. They could all use the parking in the back of Ed Spear, which eases the entrance of Ed Spear Park being too congested. The half marathon and marathon would begin at 7am and the 5K would start at 8am.

Mayor Stiffey made a motion to increase Officer Hicks pay by \$1.00 per hour, making his pay \$28/hour. This will take effect in 2 weeks. Commissioner Schroader seconded the motion and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Cemetery – Commissioner Young noted that the mowing was going well. He introduced a quote from Bluegrass Home and Appliance Repair in the amount of \$4,050 to repair and seal windows, threshold and door and install foam under flashing and seal openings of the steeple.

Commissioner Cartwright noted that it seemed priced fairly. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the estimate in the amount of \$4,050 for repair of the chapel. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by 5-0 vote.

Code Enforcement – Commissioner Cartwright noted several properties with high grass and noted trash cleanup was completed on Cave Street, Highland, Broadway and 4th Street. Commissioner Cartwright reminded everyone to keep lawns mowed and trash in bins. Chief Franks noted that an abandoned property owned by Beverly Britt was sold to a developer, the property will be demolished and cleaned up, the abandoned vehicles removed, and this developer will build a residence in the fall. This company is looking to acquire other properties in Smiths Grove to clean up and build livable homes. Commissioner Cartwright appreciates the Chief and his efforts with code enforcement. Attorney Moore reported an update on the Marr property on the docket for City-County planning. The committee did not meet in July; it has been moved to the August docket.

Mayor Stiffey did reiterate with Attorney Moore that we will follow Warren County Code Ordinance for abandoned vehicles. Vehicles that are not currently licensed as working vehicles cannot be left in the yard. Vehicles must be on a hard surface (such as asphalt). Vehicles with antique plates do not have to be licensed yearly. Attorney Moore mentioned that anyone concerned about an abandoned vehicle should contact Warren County Code Enforcement. Also, he reminded everyone that there is a limit of one (1) covered vehicle per residence.

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the payment to KLC in the amount of \$28,888.70 for total insurance package for the City for the year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Buehl made a motion to approve the payment to GUTS for \$4,884.00 for new property tax software. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stiffey and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the payment to Smiths Grove Fire Department for \$7,500.00 for payment from Buc-ee's in Lieu of taxes payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Mayor Stiffey made a motion to approve the payment to Willis Tree Service for \$750.00 for payment to remove tree behind Ryan & Judy Bessette residence in alleyway. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the quote from Stalker Radar Applied Concepts in the amount of \$2845.00 for a new LIDAR to replace the broken radar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Schroader made a motion to approve the quote from PMI in the amount of \$6,210.00 for the evidence tracking system that will be used by the Police Department for better efficiency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young and was approved by 5-0 vote.

Tim Allen of SOKY Patriots presented a project in memory of his son Keegan Thomas Allen – the LCPL Keegan Thomas Allen USMC Memorial Garden Project. Mr. Allen’s son, Keegan Allen enlisted in the United State Marine Corps in 2023 and was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident on September 5, 2024. Mr. Allen went on to say that this would be a memorial for all branches of service who have died while on active duty. He also followed that JROTC groups, church groups and scouting groups will be assisting with the upkeep of this garden. Mr. Allen introduced Pete Dillenbeck and Tim Weedamire. Mr. Dillenbeck discussed some of the details and dimensions of this garden, with details of costs and upkeep. The total startup costs will be around \$10,000. Mr. Dillenbeck went on to anticipate a groundbreaking date of September 5, 2025, with a dedication service on Veterans Day 2025. Mr. Weedamire created a diorama of the garden as it will be his eagle scout project and presented to the Commission. Mr. Dillenbeck also reiterated they have reached out to Operation Pride for assistance with signage and this will be a very well-kept permanent park that all branches of the military can visit in memory of fallen military. Commissioner Buehl asked about the lighting that would be used, Mr. Allen replied that it would be solar lighting. Commissioner Buehl also asked the size of the flagpole and who would be maintaining the flag. Mr. Allen replied that it would be a 25–30-foot flagpole and has organizations that would help with the upkeep of the flag. Mayor Stiffey expressed his concerns regarding the upkeep of the garden.

Kelsey Lonas was introduced and gave a statement regarding concerns regarding this project. Kelsey Lonas is the sister of Keegan Allen. Also in attendance was Keegan’s mother, family friend and Keegan’s grandparents. Mrs. Lonas expressed her families’ concerns about how Mr. Allen conducts this nonprofit business, listing several reasons why their family does not support this memorial as they feel Mr. Allen will let this project fall to the wayside, which has been a theme in Mr. Allen’s past.

Commissioner Schroader mentioned that the Commission must look at the overall picture and would have to do what is best for the city, decisions must be made to ensure equal treatment for all military. Commissioner Schroader asked Mr. Allen if he had thought about getting a memorial site in Oakland where Keegan went to elementary school and lived. Mr. Allen said he thought Smiths Grove would get more traffic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED



DAVID STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST

Alice Elkins

ALICE ELKINS, CITY CLERK

DATE

August 25, 2025

Minutes were prepared by Alice Elkins, City Clerk