

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 6:30pm

Commissioner Schroader called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Members Present: Commissioner Eric Schroader, Commissioner Jennifer Cartwright, Commission Patrick Young, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Sergeant Bessette, City Clerk Alice Elkins

Absent: Mayor David Stiffey

Guests: none

Invocation was given by Commissioner Schroader

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Schroader started the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. Parade duties from last year were printed out and handed to each commissioner. Commissioner Cartwright did confirm that the parade was Friday, December 5th. Commissioner Schroader did speak to the mayor beforehand; he will take care of getting the town Christmas lights set out for SCRTC to put up around town. Bulbs will be checked by Commissioners before the lights are put up. Commissioner Schroader and Buehl will take care of the banners at each end of town by November 21st. Commissioner Schroader will ask Nancy Howard, former city clerk, and Debbie Joyner, former assistant city clerk, to be the grand marshals for this year's parade. Commissioner Cartwright will assist the police department with setting out barricades for street closures that evening. Commissioner Buehl will be Santa again this year but will ride on trailer (possibly coke trailer) witch chair set up. Commissioner Young will assist with line up at school and direct traffic to properly line up. Commissioner Schroader will contact Coke and pick up sodas and contact volunteers for handing out during parade. Sergeant Bessette did reiterate how important it is for each parade participant to keep up with parade speed and not stop during parade. This is a safety issue and resulted in traffic entering the parade last year and would be dangerous for parade participants and public crowds. We will be sure to convey this information to all parade participants by way of word of mouth, emails and website. Commissioner Young did say we might want to consider a banner for the end of the parade so public traffic will not pull in to parade line to prevent dangerous conditions. Commissioner Schroader will contact Warren County parks for extended opening of the park that evening and will contact prospective volunteers that are needed at certain checkpoints throughout the parade route. Commissioner Buehl will contact WEHS band.

A cleanup day before the parade has been set for Saturday, November 8, 2025, beginning at 9:00 am in preparation for the parade. A date can be set after the parade for cleanup day, if needed.

These matters can be discussed at future meetings with updates as needed.

Commissioner Buehl then went into discussion about the second item on the agenda. Being a veteran, he would like to propose a 250th America celebration with a parade. He feels this generation needs a celebration like the one celebrated in 1976. The commissioners went over some suggestions regarding a parade and finding out if any other areas will be doing some sort of celebration on July 4, 2026. The question regarding requirements and vetting the parade entries were brought up and if these needed to be pre-registered, unlike the Christmas parade. Sergeant Bessette brought up the question of shutting down a state highway in the middle of the day on a holiday. Commissioner Schroeder will contact Bowling Green to see if anything is planned for the city of Bowling Green. Another suggestion was brought up about having a celebration at Ed Spear Park with vendors, fireworks & food trucks, there will be more discussion regarding what celebration will take place and when upon determining availability of the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm by Commissioner Schorader.

APPROVED 
ERIC SCHROEDER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST 
ALICE ELKINS, CITY CLERK

DATE 9/23/25
Minutes were prepared by Alice Elkins, City Clerk