

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY JULY 24, 2017 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Mayor Stiffey, Commissioner Stidham , Commissioner Stiffey, Commissioner Vincent, and Commissioner Buehl.

Also Present: City Attorney Hampton Moore

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

Invocation was given by Chaplain Casey Mathias

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (June 26, 2017)

The minutes were approved by acclimation

**REPORTS**

Treasurers Report (2nd Quarter 2017 & June, 2017)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to accept the Treasurers Reports as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

**Administrative Report**

Mayor Stiffey reported that on July 17, 2017 the Meadows Home Owners Association held their meeting here at City Hall and he and Chief Vance attended the meeting. He stated that he thought Debbie Richey was doing a great job as President of the Home Owners Association. He also stated that there are some items that he feels the city needs to help them with such as street lights. Right now they are charged on their property taxes for the street lights each year and the total amount is approximately five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The city only pays approximately thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) per year for all of the city street lights. Since the Meadows is in the city limits the mayor feels that the city should have some responsibility for the lights as well. He and Clerk Brewer will be doing some research on the matter and will report back their findings in a future meeting.

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Stidham reported that he had met with Professional Concrete in regards to the sidewalks at Fifth and Cave Streets and on Main Street in front of the businesses between Johnny's Texaco and the Flavor Isle. The sidewalks in both of these areas need to be raised to keep water from flooding the streets and yards, and a gutter grate needs to be installed on the Main Street section.

Commissioner Stidham stated that he had received a bid from Mr. Keith for six thousand eight hundred twenty seven dollars and fifty cents (\$6,827.50) which works out to be six dollars (\$6.00) per square foot.

Commissioner Stidham also reported that all the street lights and street signs are good at this time. He has contacted the State Highway Department in regards to the bump in the road at I-65 and the bridge and they will come to fix it.

### **Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report**

Commissioner Stiffey stated that in attendance was Mr. Jeff Wright who will hopefully be the new Assistant Chief if the Commission votes to hire him tonight.

Greg Claywell would like for the city to keep him as a police officer.

At this time the floor was turned over to Chief Vance to introduce Mr. Wright.

Chief Vance stated that Mr. Wright has thirty one plus (31+) years of experience in law enforcement. He has served as a Police Officer in Cave City, Glasgow, Brownsville, and with the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Chief Vance worked with him personally in Glasgow.

The Chief stated that it is hard to find the right person for this type of job and that you have to be able to trust them because they are basically working unsupervised or with a minimal supervision due to the fact we are such a small Municipality. Chief Vance is one hundred percent (100%) sure that Mr. Wright can be trusted.

Commissioner Stiffey stated that Assistant Chief Claywell has done a great job with writing speeding ticket and she had told Mr. Wright that if he is hired he needs to keep up with writing them also.

Chief Vance stated that he would like for the Commission to hire Mr. Wright and bring him in at the same pay that Assistant Chief Claywell makes at this time. He would also like for the commission to keep Greg Claywell on as a part-time as-needed officer at least until December 31, 2017 and then decide what to do at that point. The reason for this is because Greg would have to be re-certified next year.

Assistant Chief Claywell's official last day as Assistant Chief was July 23, 2017.

### **Cemetery Report**

Commissioner Buehl reported that he is still working on some stones but due to the heat the process has had to slow down. Some of the projects he is working on at this time are markers with only initials on them. However, he does have one that will be like a jigsaw because of the broken pieces and it only has a 08 or 80 on it. We do not know what this stands for but it will go back in its original spot.

Commissioner Buehl stated that someone had asked him about the Lions Club foot stone that was supposed to be placed at the Memorial Marker. He has contacted Robbie Brantly at Patton and there must have been some miscommunication and the stone has just now been ordered. It should be in sometime in the next couple of weeks.

He also stated that he wishes more people would have participated in the Controlled Burn that was held last weekend.

Mayor Stiffey stated that the poles for the fence around the Memorial area have been delayed at this time but not forgotten.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Commissioner Vincent stated that there is a problem with people not mowing their grass often enough. There is still a problem with the property the barn at 122 Witherspoon. They have been notified and sent pictures and he would like for Chief Vance to send them a Citation at this time, The Elvis Barrow house on Witherspoon is now unoccupied and Cook's Mowing is going to clean the yard up, Scott Ray at 220 N. Main needs to be given a Citation because he has been given plenty of time, 419 College Street owned by Ken Lowe needs to be sent a letter, a letter needs to be sent to 738 Hedge Street, and 152 Beeler Ave. needs to be sent a letter. The property owner of 0 Highland has started bush hogging the property and has the worst of it cleared but evidently his machine broke on him. No further action will be taken at this time on that property.

At this time Mayor Stiffey said he would like to add an item that he forgot to mention in his Administration Report. He wanted to thank Mr. Gerald "Mousey" Brown for the framed photo of the old L&N Depot that he donated to the city.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Aging Committee**

None

Mayor Stiffey stated there were no Committee Reports at this time however Ms. Tracy Mitchell wanted to address the city about becoming a Trail Town. At this time he turned the floor over to her.

Ms. Mitchell stated that at this time there are four (4) counties in the area that are Cave Country Trails that are connected to Mammoth Cave. They have Hiking, Mountain Biking, Cycling, Horseback Riding, and River Paddling. She stated that she had Helen Siewers, Project Director for Cave Country Trails, Sandra Wilson, Executive Director of Horse Cave/Hart County Tourism, and Seth Wheat with the Kentucky Department of Tourism with her to explain the process of becoming a Trail Town.

Helen Siewers stated that one thousand five hundred (1,500) miles of trails have been connected from Mammoth Cave to Barren River State Park so far. Munfordville became the seventeenth (17) gate way Trail Town in June.

Seth Wheat stated that he has been working with Kentucky Trail Towns for six (6) years now and that they are trying to capture the economic impact and benefits, and to promote better public health. They seek to provide authentic adventures to tourist and help with the development of tourism.

Mayor Stiffey asked what the process was to become a Trail Town.

Seth Wheat said it is a three (3) part process. 1) Trail Activity 2) What the area has to offer tourist 3) Self Evaluation. At the end of the process, which takes anywhere from one and one half (1 ½) to two (2) years, the city would have to fill out a large packet of paperwork and send to them.

At this time Mayor Stiffey thanked them for coming and sharing this information with us.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Perpetual Care funds at/for Cemetery**

Mayor Stiffey deferred to Attorney Moore for an update on the matter.

Attorney Moore stated that he has received the Order Terminating Trust which was given to the commission by Clerk Brewer at the beginning of the meeting. The city now has control over the funds but the commission should remember these funds may only be used for care, maintenance, and embellishment of the Smiths Grove Cemetery as per KRS 367.952(5).

### **Update on SCRTC Franchise Agreement**

Attorney Moore stated that Mr. Richardson was supposed to be providing us with wording for the advertisement which was just received. We will get the advertisement run and have the proposals for the August meeting. Attorney Moore would like for the commission to vote for the clerk to run the advertisement.

A motion was made by Mayor Stiffey proceed with running the advertisement to bid for the sale of Telecommunication Franchise and to discuss at our August meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

### **Accepting Assistant Chief Claywell's Resignation and accepting him as auxiliary status**

At this time Chief Vance stated that he would like for the commission to accept Assistant Chief Claywell's resignation as Assistant Chief but that he would like for them to keep him employed as a part-time as-needed employee, as police officer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to accept Assistant Chief Claywell's resignation as Assistant Chief but to keep him employed as a part-time as-needed employee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Hiring and swearing in of Assistant Police Chief Jeff Wright**

At this time a motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to hire Jeff Wright as Assistant Chief of Police and start him out at Thirteen dollars (\$13.00) per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

At this time Mayor Stiffey read the Oath of Office to Jeff Wright and swore him in as Assistant Chief of Police.

### **Releasing Utility trailer taken by Police Department**

On Tuesday, June 13, 2017 the city ran an advertisement in the Daily News stating that we have a 6x6x12 utility trailer that the Police Department had confiscated and the city was accepting bids on the trailer. Only two bids were received. One was from Steve Flynn for Three Hundred dollars (\$300) and the other was from Anthony Stidham for Four Hundred Fifty dollars (\$450).

Jimmy Pillow had spoken to Mayor Stiffey and told him that instead of the city reimbursing him for his Legal fees he would like to have the trailer. Since his legal fees were Seven Hundred and Seventy Five dollars (\$775), which is more than either bid that was received, he felt the city should award Mr. Pillow the trailer. If the bids would have been over the Seven Hundred and Seventy Five dollars (\$775) the city would have had to sell it and pay Mr. Pillow.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to release the trailer to Mr. Pillow and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Stidham. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

### **City Street Resurface bids for 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year**

On July 13, 2017 the city ran an advertisement for bids on resurfacing Laurel St. /Hays Smiths Grove Rd. from Main St. /HWY 101 to just past the Webb Subdivision, and College Street to Broadway Ave. This would include widening Laurel/Hays Smiths Grove Rd. and covering the sidewalk. The two bids received were:

Charles DeWeese Construction, Inc. for Sixty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred - Five dollars and Thirty Six Cents (\$61,705.36).

Scotty's Contracting & Stone, LLC for Forty Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety One dollars (\$45,891.00).

At this time the commission recognized Mr. Buddy Marr who stated that he had talked to someone from Atmos Energy who was working on the project and they told him they would not be starting on the North side of Main Street until about two years from now. He stated the city should not do anything until Atmos was finished with their project. Mr.

Marr also stated that the repaired sidewalk in front of Doris Hill's property was a hazard and something needed to be done about it.

Commissioner Stidham explained that when College Street is resurfaced this matter will be eliminated because the Bituminous Base Mix would raise the height to four inches (4"). Mr. Marr stated that it is still a problem at this time to which Commissioner Stidham replied that it will not be once the street is resurfaced.

Mr. Buddy Marr stated he was also concerned with how narrow the Railroad Crossing is on College St. and he wanted to know who was responsible for it. Commissioner Stidham stated that the responsibility would fall on CSX and he was not sure what would be involved to get them to look at.

Commissioner Buehl asked if maybe the city should put up signs stating "Single Lane Crossing". Commissioner Stidham stated that he felt that could be done. Commissioner Vincent said he thought it should say "Narrow Crossing" instead.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to accept the bid from Scotty's Contracting & Stone due to the difference in price. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vincent. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

#### **Sidewalk work discussion due to water problem at 5<sup>th</sup> and Cave Streets and also on Main Street between the Railroad and First Street**

Commissioner Stidham stated that this matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting and at this time he would like to make a motion to accept the bid for Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven dollars and Fifty Cents (\$6,827.50) from Professional Concrete. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

#### **Cemetery paving work approval**

Mayor Stiffey stated that while Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC was here he had asked them to quote paving a road in the cemetery that is to the left as you come in from the HWY 101/Smiths Grove Scottsville Road entrance. This will be the section that goes around Section OO in the cemetery. He received a bid of Seven Thousand Five Twenty dollars (\$7,520.00) this includes all prep work and widening the road to ten feet (10'). He reported that the funds would come out of the Cemetery Improvement account.

At this time a motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to accept the bid from Scotty's Contracting and to proceed as allowed. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

#### **Concrete work approval for Cemetery Main Entrance triangle area**

Mayor Stiffey reported that the triangle area to the right of the Cemetery Main Entrance needs to be redone because the sides are crumbling. This would be the section where the

Helm's are buried. The cost for this would also come out of the Cemetery Improvement Donations.

### **Trimming of Street Right of Ways approval**

Mayor Stiffey reported that when this was addressed last year Chief Vance had given him a contact out of Munfordville, Jeff Roten, who was willing to do the job.

Mayor Stiffey and Commissioner Stidham discussed this matter and the Mayor has contacted Jeff Roten who said he would be happy to do the work for us. He charges One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour but will not work only one (1) hour.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Stidham to approve contracting Jeff Roten to trim the right of ways but the city would pay him no more than One Thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) which would be ten (10) hours. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

### **Resolution 02-17 Separation of the County Employees Retirement System from the Kentucky Retirement System**

Mayor Stiffey explained that the request for this Resolution had come from the Kentucky League of Cities and proceeded to read the Resolution.

Once the Resolution was read the Mayor asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he felt this Resolution was one sided and that the city should have someone from the State Retirement System come in and speak to the Commission so they could hear both sides and asked Attorney Moore if he would contact someone and have them come to the next meeting.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to table this matter until the next meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

### **Ordinance Number 17-003 100.00**

#### **An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky**

Mayor Stiffey explained that this is something the city has to do every three years to get the Code of Ordinances updated with any new/repealed/changed Ordinances.

At this time Mayor Stiffey read Ordinance 17-003 100.00 in its entirety. Once the Ordinance was read he asked if there was any further discussion.

With there being no further discussion a motion was made by Mayor Stiffey to accept Ordinance Number 17-003 100.00 as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes all members present so the motion passed 5 – 0.

Mayor Stiffey adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH K. BREWER, CITY CLERK

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Minutes were prepared by Deborah K. Brewer, City Clerk