

**MINUTES**  
**SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2011 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Varner, Commissioner Pierce and Commissioner Stiffey

Members Absent: Commissioner Martin

Also present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.  
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (November, 2011)  
Meeting minutes were approved by acclimation

**REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (November, 2011)  
Report was approved by acclimation

**Public Works Report**

Commissioner Varner stated that he has not talked to Mr. Marr since our last meeting. He is going to wait until after the holidays are over to get with him about the areas that will need new signs.

Commissioner Varner reported that, not only the tree we requested but, 3 trees have been taken down at North Warren Elementary School. He credited Attorney Milliken for this feat and thanked him for his help with the matter.

Commissioner Varner has met with Jack Wright, an Engineer with Warren County Planning & Zoning, in regards to the standing water problem on Cave and West Second Street. Mr. Wright has taken some pictures and is going to present the problem to the Warren County Public Works director to see what solution they may be able to come up with for us. At this time Commissioner Varner asked Commissioners Pierce & Stiffey if the Fire Department could once again clean out the drain traps on Cave Street. Commissioner Pierce suggested that it should be done after Mr. Wright has made his decision due to the continuing washing of soil and leaves down Cave and Second Streets into the affected area.

Also, Commissioner Varner stated that he is looking into a way to better control the traffic coming into Smiths Grove before, during and after the Christmas Parade next year. Commissioner Pierce suggested that next year we borrow a flashing road sign from the Sate Road Department, and set it on I-65 before the Oakland exit requiring traffic to exit at Oakland because exit 38 (Smiths Grove Exit) would be closed for the parade.

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

In Commissioner Martin's absence, Mayor Higginbotham read the Monthly Police Report. Once report was read Chief Suoy informed us that he is trying to get another grant for the City that will help cover the cost of two (2) body cameras for our officers. These cameras would help the officers to be able to alleviate any accusations that could be falsely brought against our police officers. It was also brought up that if we could qualify in 2012 for the "Safety Grant" the city could use a new COW warning system as well as some CALVES.

#### Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that Sanders Tree Service is still working diligently out at the cemetery. They have also gotten several of the stumps ground up as well. Commissioner Pierce also informed us that Mr. Van Lawrence has a dozer and would bid the job of clearing the small saplings out of the fence line at the cemetery. This would enable the mowers to be able to mow closer to the fence line.

#### Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Stiffey reported that the he had contacted the owner of the building that was blocking Orion alley way and they have cleared the road. The building is still in disrepair in their yard but the alley is clear at this time.

Commissioner Stiffey also gave us an update on what the Fire Department was doing about the problem with Laurel Street. So far the lowest bid they have received on repairing the problem is \$30,000.00. The Fire Department has discussed with Judge Buchanan's office to see if the County would pay half and then they would want the city to split the other half with them. Commissioner Varner stated that he thought it would be best to wait until he could get Mr. Wright to take a look at it and see what he thought.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Christmas Parade Report

Commissioner Martin was absent but everyone has only heard good things about the parade and the consensus is that we had the largest turn out ever.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was once again stated that the problem tree at North Warren has now been taken care of.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We have received a bid of \$1,075.00 from Sanders Tree Service to trim the four large trees here at City Hall. Commissioner Stiffey made a motion that we accept the bid and have Sanders to do the work, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Ayes all members present. Motion passed.

At this time Mayor Higginbotham brought everyone's attention to the Smiths Grove Code Of Ordinances, pages 14 & 14A on Obstructions to roads and sidewalks. Under section 91.46 & 91.47 of the Code Of Ordinances it covers the problem we have with the mail boxes and tree limbs and shrubs blocking or partially blocking roadway, sidewalks and alleys. The Commission agreed to send out letters to all residents who are in violation after the first of the year advising them of the violations and asking them how they intend to correct the problems.

Mr. Jason Smith had dropped off a proposal to the office wanting the city to pay him \$1,650.00 to repair/replace the sidewalk in front of his business According to the aforementioned Code of Ordinances the sidewalk would not be the city's responsibility. It was also brought up that if the city were to get involved they should take bids because this would be deemed a conflict of interest. This item is tablet at this time.

The Mayor asked for tentative dates for a City Commission work session. The dates presented were January 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. All members present and Attorney Milliken said that January 10, 2012 at 6:00pm would work best for them. At this time that is the scheduled date for the work session.

With there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

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

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