

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011 7:00 PM

All Members Present: Mayor Higginbotham, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Varner, Commissioner Pierce, Commissioner Stiffey

Also present: City Attorney Wes Milliken

Mayor Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
All present recited the Pledge to Allegiance

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting (January 24, 2011)
Meeting Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report (January 2011)
Report approved by unanimous consent.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Varner reported that the sidewalk repairs on College and Laurel Streets have been completed and the invoice for the services has been paid.

A brief discussion regarding new regulations on street signs was held. Commissioner Varner stated that all street signs will need to be in compliance with these new regulations but there is a phase in period to be in compliance. The Commission concluded that more study on the matter needs to take place at a later time to be determined.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Martin read the police report for January, 2011. He asked Chief Suoy if there was anything to add and there was not.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce stated that he had received one bid for the removal of the first three trees marked in the cemetery. More bids will need to be obtained before any action is taken by the Commission.

Code Enforcement Report

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance # 11-01 100.40 Second Reading of an Ordinance creating Departments, Prescribing Functions of the Departments, and the Duties and Responsibilities of the

Department Heads. Ordinance number and title read by City Clerk Jones. Motion made by Commissioner Martin, second by Commissioner Pierce to approve second reading of Ordinance # 11-01 100.40. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Ordinance # 11-002 100.40 Second Reading of an Ordinance Designating Department Heads. Ordinance number and title read by City Clerk Jones. Motion made by Mayor Higginbotham, second by Commissioner Martin to approve second reading of Ordinance # 11-002 100.40. Ayes: All member present. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #02-11 Designating representatives to conduct bank transactions on behalf of the City of Smiths Grove. Resolution was read in its entirety by City Clerk Jones. Resolution passed by unanimous consent.

Ordinance #11-003 100.50 an Ordinance Establishing the Continuity of Government in the Event of the Absence or Disability of the Mayor. Ordinance was read in its entirety by City Clerk Jones. Motion made by Commissioner Varner, second by Commissioner Martin to approve first reading of Ordinance #11-003 100.50. Ayes: All member present. Motion carried.

Ordinance # 11-004 220 an Ordinance Creating Regular Meetings of the Smiths Grove City Commission. Ordinance was read in its entirety by City Clerk Jones. Motion made by Commissioner Varner, second by Commissioner Stiffey to approve first reading of Ordinance #11-004220. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Ordinance #11-005220.76 an Ordinance Imposing a License Fee Upon Insurance Companies for the Privilege of Engaging in the Business of Insurance within the Corporate Limits of Smiths Grove, Kentucky. Ordinance was read in its entirety by City Clerk Jones. Motion was made by Mayor Higginbotham, second by Commissioner Martin to approve first reading of Ordinance #11-005220.76 at the suggested percentages by classification. Ayes: All members present. Motion carried.

Cemetery Lights

Commissioner Martin expressed to the Commission that he wanted to reconsider the passing of the motion to install three 400 watt floodlights at the Cemetery that passed at the January 24, 2011. Motion made by Commissioner Martin, second by Commissioner Varner to reverse the January motion (not install the lights). Ayes: Martin, Varner, Higginbotham. Nays: Pierce, Stiffey. Motion carried 3-2.

Financial Audit

City Clerk Jones expressed to the Commission that he felt that the financial audit of the City could possibly be done for less money than the \$8,215 paid in 2010. Jones asked for authorization to bid the financial audit for the year ended June 30, 2011. Jones is also going to write letter to current auditors Gilbert & Gilbert, CPA's a courtesy letter informing them of the upcoming bid process. Bid invitations are expected to be sent sometime in April. Authorization given to City Clerk by the Commission to pursue this matter.

Oakland Police Patrol

Commissioner Stiffey suggested the Oakland community to share in the rising fuel costs since the Smiths Grove Police Department patrols Oakland on a regular basis.

Oakland has informally contributed an arbitrary amount in the past but nothing has been in writing. Mayor Higginbotham stated that he would write a letter to the City of Oakland asking for financial support.

Property Tax on Abandoned Property

A discussion was held concerning increasing property taxes on abandoned property which is permitted under State statute. The purpose of increasing the property taxes is not to increase revenue but instead to provide the property owner an incentive to clean up the property. City Attorney Milliken informed the Commission that the process to increase the taxes would not be cost effective as the cost of collecting the extra taxes would exceed any increase in revenue. Matter needs to be studied further before any action taken.

Cleaning Up of Properties and Right of Way of Some Alleys

Commissioner Stiffey expressed concern that some alleys are not passable due to tree limbs and bushes on citizens property have overgrown into the alley ways.

Matter tabled to study legality of forcing a citizen to cut his trees to clear alleys.

Special Commission Meeting

A special meeting of the Smiths Grove City Commission was scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2011 at 5:15 pm for second reading of Ordinance # 11-005 220.76 due to the time sensitivity of this Ordinance.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

APPROVED _____
BERT E. HIGGINBOTHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
DANIEL C. JONES, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____

Minutes were prepared by Daniel C. Jones, City Clerk