

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

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

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

Code Enforcement Report – Commissioner Stiffey

Special Guest Robert Elrod of Warren County Code Enforcement was present and spoke about the duties of his position. He covers the same area of Warren County that Magistrate Tommy Hunt covers. As it relates to the City of Smiths Grove, Mr. Elrod's efforts should coincide with Code Enforcement Commissioner Stiffey. Mr. Elrod pointed out specific properties that he is currently working on. These include several properties on Cave Street and Higgins Alley. Mr. Elrod stated that all Warren County codes are based on the "International Property Maintenance Code" because Warren County adopted their statutes. Therefore, the City of Smiths Groves' codes also coincide with the "International Property Maintenance Code" statutes. Mr. Elrod stated that he was available to assist the City of Smiths Grove in any code issues.

Stidham Street Closing – East Side

Commissioner Martin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stiffey to close this street by Resolution. Motion passed 5-0.

Smiths Grove resident Shirley Martin read a statement expressing her disagreement with the recent City Commission action to increase the insurance premium tax. Her reasons varied from the overall state of the economy to questioning the legality and timeliness of the tax increase. Ms. Martin was assured by Mayor Higginbotham that the measure was passed both in a timely and legal manner. Ms. Martin also expressed her opinion that she thought that the Mayor could have done a better job in the purchase of his City owned computer ("He wasted some money" was one of her exact quotes). After reading her prepared remarks, Ms. Martin questioned the need for a second police officer inferring that the City of Smiths Grove could do with one police officer in these difficult times.

## **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Regular Meeting (February 28, 2011) and Minutes of Special Meetings (March 4, 2011; March 16, 2011; March 17, 2011)

Meeting Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

## **REPORTS**

Treasurer Report (February 2011)

Report approved by unanimous consent.

Public Works Report

No report

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

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

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Pierce reported that he had received two separate bids to repair the retaining wall at the Cemetery. One bid was over \$28,000 and Commissioner Pierce did not bother obtaining a written bid considering the outrageous price. The other bid was from Ricky Coles in the amount of \$5,200. Commissioner Pierce made a motion to accept the bid from Ricky Coles, seconded by Commissioner Stiffey. Ayes: Pierce, Stiffey, and Higginbotham. Nays: Varner and Martin. Motion passed 3-2.

Commissioner Pierce also presented to the Commission a bid from Sanders Tree Service to remove seventeen predetermined trees from the Cemetery. The total cost of the removal (including stump removal) is \$14,825.00. Stumps for four of the trees will not be ground up due to tombstones that have grown into the base of those four trees. The proposal includes a timetable for removal of the trees between the awarding of the bid until the end of calendar year 2011. Motion made by Commissioner Stiffey, second by Commissioner Martin to accept the bid from Sanders Tree Service. Ayes: All members present. Motion passed 5-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Oakland Police Patrol – Mayor Higginbotham stated that the letter he was to write to Oakland requesting help in fuel cost reimbursement had not been written simply due to the fact that he did not feel comfortable doing so. Among the citizens of Smiths Grove in attendance, those in favor of asking for some help seemed to equal those that were opposed. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Martin stated the he would contact Oakland City Commissioner Tim Hunt to have a discussion regarding this matter.

Cleaning up Properties and right-of-way of some Alleys – After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed that it was the property owners’ responsibility to clear the alley ways in Smiths Grove.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Gravel Alleys – A discussion was held regarding the best way to proceed with this task. It was felt that Magistrate Tommy Hunt along with the Warren County Fiscal Court could provide help to the City in the matter. Commissioner Varner is to contact Magistrate Hunt to pursue this further.

Parking Congestion at Thomas Veterinary Clinic – Though no one thought that the City could control how many clients/customers that Dr. Thomas could have at any one time, parking at the Veterinary Clinic sometimes creates a problem due to large animal treatment and, specifically, trailers that block the street during the day. After a brief discussion, the Smiths Grove Police Department will monitor and address this issue if further issues arise.

A City Commission Special Meeting was scheduled for April 11, 2011 to be a work session for the city budget for 2011-12. Due to scheduling conflicts, the times for this meeting will be staggered.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

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

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL C. JONES, CITY CLERK

DATE \_\_\_\_\_