



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

July 25, 2018

Smithville Mayor and Son Indicted for Theft

Mayor Hired Son as a City Employee without Board Approval

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has resulted in the indictment of Smithville Mayor Jimmy Poss and his son Anthony "Tony" Poss.

Investigators found that Mayor Poss created a part time salaried position and hired his son to work for the City of Smithville for \$300 a week in August 2017. Tony Poss was paid \$8,100 over the next six months.

Mayor Poss failed to follow city policy and the city's charter by not obtaining approval from the Board of Mayor and Alderman before creating the new job and hiring his son.

The mayor did not advertise the position nor seek applications for it. He also did not have his son complete a job application as required by city policy.

Furthermore, Mayor Poss violated the city's nepotism policy by hiring and then supervising his son. The policy prohibits city leaders from hiring family members unless a "clear business reason exists." The policy also prohibits supervising immediate family members.

Tony Poss' job responsibilities included ensuring irrigation boxes at the city's golf course were maintained and the city's pool was kept at an adequate water level. Both of these tasks were already being performed by the public works department and a city contractor. Tony Poss did not maintain time and attendance records for the work he performed.

On July 23, 2018, Mayor Jimmy Poss and his son Tony Poss were each indicted by the DeKalb County Grand Jury. Mayor Poss is charged with theft over \$2,500 and official misconduct. Tony Poss is charged with theft over \$2,500.

To view the investigative report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

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