

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Greg Matt, Don Kring, Ron Parker, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Councilors prior to the meeting for their review. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ELECTION OF 2015 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Chambers opened the floor for nominations for 2015 Council President. Greg Matt made a motion to nominate Don Kring. Ron Parker seconded the motion. Jeff Berg nominated Linda Berndt. Motion died for lack of a second.

Don Kring being the only candidate with a nomination and second, a vote was taken naming him President of the Council for 2015. The vote was Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: COUNCILPERSON LINDA BERNDT ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION OF NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Councilperson Linda Berndt announced that upon completion of this year of in office she will have completed 20 years of service. She thought this may be a good time to retire and let someone else come in. She announced she will not run for re-election. She said she looks forward to working this up coming year and expected to still get things done to make Knox a better place to live in and work in. She counted among her biggest accomplishments the construction of the Community Center and the construction of the lead Track at the Industrial Park.

RE: FIREWORKS DATE

A general discussion took place concerning what date to have the fireworks this year. July 4th falls on a Saturday this year. Don Kring made a motion seconded by Jeff Berg to table setting a date until the next meeting. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: DUMPSTER, SHREDDING, YARD SALE, ELECTRONICS, MAY 14, 15, 16 AND 17 DATES FOR 2015

Mayor Chambers said the dates for the free yard sale are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 14, 15, 16 and 17 Dumpsters for clean up will be Friday Saturday and Sunday. The shredding event will be on Saturday. The electronics pick up day would also be Saturday.

Linda Berndt suggested that if the City is going to have a port-a-pit chicken fundraiser again it could be held during the yard sale event. Mayor Chambers said the Downtown Depot would also like to do another fundraiser for the fireworks, probably some time in June.

Greg Matt made the motion to accept the dates outlined for the events and to have the four day yard sale for free. Motion was seconded by Don Kring. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: DUMPSTER ORDINANCE #1150 - 2ND READING

Mayor Chambers passed out the new copies of Ordinance #1150 with comments included from the Planning Commission.

Don Kring noted that the Planning Commission thought the Ordinance should be more focused on roll-off boxes on public thoroughfares. City Attorney Matsey said the Ordinance was written to be very comprehensive with the thought that the Ordinance would be whittled down. A general discussion took place. Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to table the Ordinance until the next meeting. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR AND COUNCIL 2015 APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Chambers presented the following list of appointments to the Council.

Mayors Appointments 2015

City Attorney	David Matsey
Street Superintendent	Jeff Borg
Water Superintendent	Todd Gardner
Waste Water Superintendent	Kelly Clemons
Park Superintendent	Mayor will check with the Park Department for their recommendation
Planning Commission Administrator	Bruce Williams
Police Chief	Clint Norem
Fire Chief	Ken Pfof
Animal Control	Cliff Shelhart
Ordinance Officer	Bruce Williams
Starke County Alcohol Beverage Board	William Gustafson
KIRP-C	Mayor Chambers
Starke County Economic Development Foundation	Mayor Chambers, Greg Matt
Starke County Visitors Association	Mayor Chambers
Starke County Environmental Management Commission	Mayor Chambers, Donald Kring
Knox Planning Commission	Chris Kisela (City Employee) (4 yr term 15 - 18)
Knox BZA	Chris Kisela (4 yr term 15-18)
Knox Park Board	Chris Marshall (Democrat) (4 yr term 15 - 18)

Knox Redevelopment Commission

(Mayor) Marcia Hayes
(Mayor) Vickie Skorup-McDaniels
(Mayor)?
(Council) Ollie Lockridge (Done)
(Council) Jim Collins

Knox Economic Development Commission

Sue Stonecipher
Rob Neuberg
Marlene Chambers
City Council (yet to be appointed)
County Council (yet to be appointed)

RE: STREET DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE-LEASE AGREEMENT

Mayor Chambers said the truck bid came in at \$64,143.75. The upfit will be \$54,665.00 for a total of \$118,808.75 with \$30,000.00 down the amount to finance will \$88,808.75 from Republic First National. Three annual payments of \$30,986.78 would be paid each June with an APR of 3.11%.

The payments will come from the MVH regular budget. Linda Berndt made a motion to approve the lease. Jeff Berg seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that a public hearing was held with Area 5, the grant administrator for the housing re-hab grant that is helping 10 homeowners do upgrades and repairs on their homes. The purpose of the meeting was to give an update on the progress of the grant and let homeowners voice any concerns about workmanship or projects they would like added. the grant was due to close in February but will be extended until May.

The City received the report from our Bond Council, Ice Miller, on the rebate computation for the 2009 Sewer Works Revenue Bonds. The conclusion was that no rebate was owed on earnings on the debt service fund, so we are now taken care of until 2019.

The Clerk-Treasurer office is presently working on getting out the 1099's to vendors who did over \$600.00 worth of business with the City and W'2's for City employees.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said the water department Superintendent, Todd Gardner, is putting together a list of needs for his department. The City will be applying for a grant later on this year. A match would be required from the City. The proposal is due by March 6th. The grant application is due by May 29th The City is working with an engineering firm to come up with the proposal.

Michiana Contractors has contacted the Mayor. They have come up with some equipment for replacement of the light at the school. As soon as they finish upon their current project they will get back to us with a quote.

The county jail is currently on a 2" line and paying a water bill. Once the jail is close to being completed it will be switched to a larger 4" line.

Debbie McIntire is still working on getting area churches on board with helping with free dinners at the Community Center.

Probationary Patrolman Eric Vanderhoef will start the academy March 30th and graduate July 10th. He will be introduced to the Council at the next meeting.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilperson Greg Matt said there was no crossing guard at the school on December 17th. Clint Norem, Police Chief, said the crossing guard has been given his personal number to call when she is not available to work. So that should solve the problem Councilman Matt noted that it is the responsibility of the City to provide the service.

Councilman Matt noted that the IACT roundtable is February 10th in Middlebury and Valparaiso on February 24th. Both nights are Council meeting dates. The Council decided to wait until the next meeting to decided if they would like to move the February 24th meeting to Monday February 23rd.

Councilman Greg Matt noted that there were two arrests for tinted windows. He asked how we could do that if the police vehicles also have tinted windows. Chief Norem said the officer needs to be able to see the person inside of the vehicle. He said the tint on the police vehicles is legal tint.

Councilman Matt also asked that people be prevented from parking their vehicles in the wrong direction on City Streets.

Councilman Matt asked if it would be possible to see Marsh Manor demolished in 2015. Mayor Chambers said it is included in the Blight Elimination Grant. Councilman Matt noted that the City has been working on getting the property demolished for quite a long time.

Councilman Don Kring asked what was being done with the 2000 Tahoe. He noted that it is mostly just sitting and depreciating in value. Perhaps that vehicle could be sold on E-bay as the City has sold other vehicles in the past. No official action was taken.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #19620 - #19686) were presented and approved.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer