

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

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Councilmembers prior to meeting for their review. Jeff Berg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR SERVING FREE MEALS BY AREA CHURCHES - DEB MCINTIRE

Deb McIntire came before the board to request use of the Community Center for free meals once a week. They would be sponsored by area churches. volunteers would be setting up the rooms and doing the service of the food. There would be no religious services.

A general discussion took place concerning such issues as separation of Church and State, wear and tear on the facility and loss of potential rental income. City Attorney Matsey said that each Church participating would need to have a certificate of insurance. Ron Parker suggested that a probationary period of six months might be best to see how it is received in the community.

Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to proceed with a memorandum of understanding stating the terms of making the Community Center available to area Churches one day a week for free meals. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No(0) nays.

RE: MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH PULASKI COUNTY CHAD DULIN

Chad Dulin, first class patrolman with the City of Knox appeared before the board to request to be allowed to be added to the Pulaski County SWAT team.

He pointed out the benefits of belonging to the team such as free gear, quicker response time to emergencies, increased training and the sharing of tactical information. He would need to participate in two to five hours of training a month and would need to take home his patrol car. A report would be made monthly to Chief Norem and to the Council members.

The Council commended Dulin on his pro active approach and agreed to check with the City's insurance carrier for liability issues and to look over the mutual aid agreement with Pulaski County.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston gave the following report to the Council:

The city, along with all other taxing entities in Starke County, is part of a pilot program with the state this year. A meeting was held on Oct. 6 where a state analysis was reviewed. Houston said the county then provided the city with a non-binding recommendation which he distributed to the Councilmembers. The city could face a huge cut in 2015.

"Our appropriation request this year had an increase of 2.44 percent and the growth quotient for the state was 2.7 percent and Starke county was 3.5 percent. We were within that. Our report came back from our circuit breaker credits. They're projected to double to about \$463,000. This is a projected projected circuit breaker of which we will get less. We'll have the appropriation that much less money will be distributed from the county," said Houston.

Houston explained that he will be going to each individual supervisor and have them cut their budgets just like he did for this year's budget.

"I went back to the individual supervisors and for example, the clerk-treasurer's office is 6.26 percent of the total budget so we were asked to cut 6.2 percent of the circuit breaker amount from our budget. The police department was cut almost 42 percent. When the budget order comes through and when we know exactly how much our circuit breaker credits are going to be, then we'll face that at that time".

At the December meeting the Clerk-Treasurer will have an item on the agenda for each elected official to sign an anti-nepotism form and a conflict of interest form. These are required to be filed each year.

The State Board of Accounts has recently been re-organized. Director Charlie Pride and Assistant Director Todd Austin have retired and seven of the eight district directors are gone. The board will be utilizing more spot checking of records and documents, for example they may call the Clerk-Treasurer's Office and request a copy of a particular month's bank reconciliation or a contract with a vendor.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Dave Matsey said that the rental property ordinance needs to be changed before the end of the year. There are also some Planning Commission changes that need to be made.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said he has received several complaints with the trees downtown. They drop berries and attract birds. The trees are also getting big and growing into the buildings.

