

The Common Council of the City of Knox met August 11, 2015 at 6:30 PM CST at the Steve Dodge property located at 801 S Bower Street. The purpose of the meeting was to observe the existing right of way running North of his property.

A regular meeting of the Common Council was convened at Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST on August 11, 2015 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.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Greg Matt made a motion seconded by Don Kring to add Traffic Control Systems to the agenda. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RE: TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALISTS

Charlie Weaver from the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the council to update the council on the plans for local business Traffic Control Specialists. They will be purchasing 16 acres through Slivers Property LLC. They presently have 65 employees. They wish to get started this fall. The owners are Tracey and Barry Triska. Approximately 22 jobs would be created.

Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to give preliminary approval of a tax abatement for personal property for TCS and real estate improvements for Slivers LLC and further setting a date for a public hearing to declare an economic revitalization area and consider the adoption of the final approval of a confirming resolution. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SELECTED FURNITURE - TAX ABATEMENT

Local Attorney, Dave Geisler, came before the council to request a partial tax abatement for Selected Furniture for taxes assessed in 2015 pay 2016. They have submitted paperwork in a timely manner in the past, but were late filing this year. He requested that a public hearing be set to consider granting a waiver of non compliance to the company.

RE: PETITION TO ESTABLISH STREET ON EXISTING DEDICATION - CURRENT ALLEYWAY NEXT TO 801 S PORTLAND

Local land owner Steve Dodge appeared again before the board wanting an alley moved off his property at 801 S Bower and onto the City right of way.

The Mayor said the City Street Department will level, grade and lay gravel to establish an alley way on City property. No large trees will be removed. Brush along a fence on the South side of the alley will be cleared.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that he is working on the close out papers for the planning grant.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Matsey reported that he is working on proposals for special use permits that came from the BZA and Planning Commission as well as the two tax abatements now before the board.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said the email server that used to be serviced by DC Tech will no longer be providing that service. Mayor Chambers will be meeting with Bob Barcus from Apeus about taking over.

The Water Department is finishing up on the East Street project. They have replaced a 70 year old hydrant and an old 3/4 in line a block long.

A letter was sent to 304 S Main about cutting the grass and also a letter about the condition of the building. If no action is taken will start the condemnation process again at the next Board of Works meeting.

Mayor Chambers noted that the price of salt has dropped from \$73.10 a ton to \$65.92 a ton. This will mean a savings of \$1,110.00.

Sewer Department employee Sterling Patrick been off with a back problem since June. It now appears that he will need an operation. A part time employee was hired to help at the plant.

The Mayor met with people about the gazebo at Serenity Park. He is looking at prices for an electrical system, sprinkler, and upgrading the sidewalks to handicapped accessibility.

Mayor Chambers noted that the City has completed the comprehensive plan. He may have a donor that would help implement one portion of the plan. The Mayor would like to know what steps the council would like to take first.

The Recycling company has changed their schedule. Republic now picks up on Monday evening instead of Monday morning. Also the clothes recycling company has agreed to pick up every week instead of every other week.

An arrest has been made for the vandalism at Serenity Park.

The Police Chief is off for his wife to have a baby.

Mayor Chambers said he would check with the street department and the school to see about getting the Redskin Drive sign replaced.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilperson, Greg Matt noted that there is still a trailer in the street on Brown Circle that he considers a hazard.

The Bella Vita sign is also still up. Councilperson Matt said it looks like a street sign and questioned whether a permit was obtained.

Councilperson, Don Kring, noted the striping on Culver Road at the school seems to be working out well.

Councilperson Kring also noted that an unusually large water bill is being charged to a neighbor and asked if the City could look into the situation.

Local Citizen Mary Bendt passed out the final layout for the Wood Starke Festival. Mayor Chambers will give an additional \$300.00 to the Festival from money originally put back for the Harvest Fest. The Wood Starke Festival has a balance of \$475.00. A stage is being used that will cost \$1,100.00.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Docket Book, Voucher #20617 - \$20710) 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