The Common council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 CST on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 with the following members present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt, Greg Matt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Mayor, Rick Chambers and Councilmember Ron Parker were absent. Council President Don Kring Chaired the meeting.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to add "Public Hearing for Water Grant" to the agenda. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and NO (0) nays.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATER GRANT

Council President Kring opened the Public Hearing for the Water Grant. Ed Buswell from KIRPC spoke to the Council and Citizens about the grant. A sign in sheet was passed around for attendees to sign. Mr. Buswell said the grant would be for $347,500.00 from the office of Community and Rural Affairs. the local match would be $187,500.00 for total project cost of $435,000.00. Areas affected would include Brown Circle and the North East side of town as well as replacement of various water hydrants. There is a problem with finding documentation of the right of way for the North side of Washington and Mound. This may affect the City's ability to obtain the grant. President Kring closed the public hearing.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to the Councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: REQUEST FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ON CITY'S VACANT LOT IN PARKVIEW

Dan Hamilton sent a letter to the Council requesting the use of a City owned vacant lot at the corner of Lambert and Clark Street for use for a Vacation bible School. Proof of insurance was provided. Mr. Hamilton spoke with neighbors and arranged for parking at Goetz Irrigation. There will be one port-a potty available. The dates would be June 8 - 13, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM with approximately 50 children attending. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the request. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: HOOSIER CUSTOM PLASTICS TAX ABATEMENT

Mike Tetzloff representing Hoosier Custom Plastics came before the board to request that they be found in substantial compliance for their tax abatement. He noted that the company had actually provided about double the number of jobs and salary amounts originally projected and that the company found the abatement very helpful. Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to find the company in substantial compliance. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: TOWN WIDE YARD SALE FOR SEPTEMBER 17 - 20

A general discussion took place concerning the City having a second town wide yard sale. Councilman Matt asked what an additional dumpster would cost after the yard sale event. Clerk-Treasurer Houston said he would investigate the cost and get back to the Council. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to table the request until the next meeting. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 2016 SALARY ORDINANCE - DISCUSSION

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston requested that the Council give him guidance as to what the 2016 salary should be. He stated that usually a 3% raise is given, however due to budget constraints he is now recommending a two percent raise for most city employees excluding board and council members. The salary for casual employees would increase from $7.25 an hour to a proposed minimum of $8.50 and a maximum of $9.50. He also suggested eliminating the $25.00 stipend for Superintendent's cell phone, City Attorney Matsey recommended against this proposal. The total impact on the budget is about $27,000.00. No definite decisions were made, but an ordinance will be written and voted on at upcoming meetings.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston said cyclical reassessment is now being done in the assessor's office. The Clerk-Treasurer's office is working with the assessors office to make sure properties are properly listed as having water and sewer services.

The Clerk-Treasurer's office is also working with Umbaugh on the water and waste water utility rate studies.

The property, liability and workers compensation insurance were recently renewed. The total cost went up only about $10,000.00.

The Clerk-Treasurer's office sold the wood chipper on ebay for about $7,000.00. Also sold on ebay was an old water department pick up truck for $700.00.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Council President Kring read the following letter out load to the council:

May 21, 2015

Dear Knox City Council,

We appreciate your support with the Serenity Garden project that thirty seniors from Knox High School have developed to transform the vacant lot at the corner of Main and Lake Streets into a beautiful garden. This will be a wonderful family area for anyone who wants to come visit and relax from everyday life.

Your generous donation will help us reach our goal to beautify the downtown are.

On behalf of the thirty seniors working on this project, I would like to thank you for your donation. We are very appreciative of your kind support.

Sincerely,
/s/ John Poindexter
English Department Chair
Knox Community High School
574-772-1670

Council President Kring noted that a total of $1,676.34 that will go towards the fireworks cost. There will be another fundraiser at the Downtown Depot on June 13. He will need workers and deserts donated. There will also be a raffle that cost $25.00 a ticket with a possible prize of $500.00.

The Council noted two problem properties in disrepair. They are Marsh Manor (304 S Main) and Coles Building(10 S Heaton).

Councilman Matt noted that the Knox Marching Band participated in the Indy 500 parade.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see voucher docket, voucher #20240 - #20303 inclusive) were presented and approved.

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

_____
Don Kring, Council President

Attest:_____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer