

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday May 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston' Councilmember Don Kring, Greg Matt, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Councilmember, Ron Parker was absent.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

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 Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: DON HAMILTON - PETITION TO CONSIDER USE OF CITY CORNER LOT OF LAMBERT AND PORTLAND

Mayor Chambers presented the following letter to the council:

Council Members,

My name is Dan Hamilton and I would like to petition the Council for the request of permit or permission for the corner lot of Lambert and Portland Street for the week of June 15, 2014 to June 22, 2014. The purpose of this request is to be able to hold a vacation Bible School for the children in that community. Also on Friday and Saturday night we would have live testimonies of recovered drug addicts and alcoholics. On Saturday we would also like to Bless the community with a Free lunch and fellowship before testimony service. We have done this for the last 2 summers although this time we would like to expand for the vacation Bible School. We have received permission from adjoining property owners as well as neighbors. In the past we have always had a good turn out and lots of support from the community. We have always left the area clean and will dispose of all trash. We are not taking offerings or asking for anything. We have been Blessed So Much and it is our desire to just give back a little of what we have received. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,  
Dan Hamilton  
317-431-9058

Councilmember Matt said it sounded like a good idea and could help the community, but he thought maybe it should not be held in a residential area. He asked what the City's liability would be. City Attorney Matsey said just because someone gets hurt doesn't mean the City is liable unless we are negligent. Mayor Chambers said if Mr. Hamilton is with a church they should have insurance. Mayor Chambers said some kind of a tent and a port-a-john would be set up in the area. The Mayor said he would get more information and bring it back to the council.

RE: HOOSIER CUSTOM PLASTICS/TAX ABATEMENT/FORM CF1

Mayor Chambers said the management of Hoosier Custom Plastics was at a trade show this week and could not attend the council meeting.

Starke County Economic Development Foundation President, Charlie Weaver spoke in favor of the council finding the company in substantial compliance with the provisions of the tax abatement.

Mr. Weaver said the company was very good to deal with. They are in the medical, auto and biodegradable golf tee industries. They are working with the Purdue Technical Park to develop new products. The salaries they promised to pay are almost double and the number of employees hired and retained are considerably more.

Dave Matsey recommended that the council find the company in substantial compliance. Don Kring made a motion seconded by Greg Matt to find the company in substantial compliance. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: OUTDOOR STORAGE ORDINANCE #1142 FOR FINAL ACTION

Mayor Chambers said a final action on Ordinance #1142 is needed. It has already been passed on first and second readings. It must now be passed, amended or rejected.

A general discussion took place about concerns individual councilmen had with the ordinance.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to reject the ordinance because it does not allow for a special use appeal process. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays. A letter will be sent to the Planning Commission explaining the need for the special use permit appeal process to accommodate the needs of individual businesses and, at the same time protect the public health safety, morals and general welfare of the community.

RE: BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT - MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

A mutual aid agreement with Bass Lake was presented to the council. City Attorney Matsey said the two fire chiefs need to get together and come up with a mutual agreement. The rate schedule is set by the state. The Bass Lake fire department does not belong to the association.

A separate agreement would need to be between Knox and the other departments in the association. Mayor Chambers said he would get with Les Jensen and see if an agreement can be reached. Don made a motion seconded by Linda Berndt to table the agreement until the next meeting. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston said his office has been working with the insurance companies to keep claims low and premiums to a minimum. Claims and cost runs were done back to 2007. 2012 was a really bad year for claims with large ones for storm damage and police department lawsuits; however 2013 was considerably better. The workers compensation claims improved in 2013 also. This is especially good because claims count against the city for four years. It seems the city is headed in the right direction over the long term.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers reported that the patrol car has been sold for \$2,186.00. The circle drive has been removed from Sandy Acres Park and a parking lot laid. May 30th IU Medical will be installing equipment at Wythogan and Sandy Acres. A new banner will be put up for the farmers market that opens June 7th.

The new police officer has been offered a job. He takes a physical on June 5th and his name is Eric Vanderhoof. The Mayor is also looking into the cost of replacing the stop light at the intersection of Main and Culver road.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Linda Berndt gave an update on the fireworks fundraiser. It will be a dinner at the Downtown Depot Restaurant on June 21st from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and cost \$10.00 a person. The restaurant owner has already sold many tickets and she asked that the councilmembers step up now and sell some tickets as this is our only fireworks fundraiser this year.

Jeff Berg noted former Mayor William Dickson's passing. He was Mayor from 1988 to 1991. He said we remember him in our prayers and thought. Mayor Chambers said the City has sent flowers to the funeral home.

Greg Matt noted that the Memorial day service was very nice and was well attended. He noted however that the noise from motor cycles, semis etc. were disruptive and suggested blocking the streets off during the ceremony.

Linda Berndt asked the Mayor to give an update on the Claybaugh lift station project. He said work has just been completed including paving and electrical upgrades. Councilmember Berndt would like painted turning lanes on Claybaugh Drive.

Councilman Matt asked about letters sent out to make sure properties were mowed. Mayor Chambers said letters have been sent. Matt also noted that the owners did a good job of cleaning up the burned house formerly known as the Macky residence. He asked that proceedings start back up for removal of the structure known as Marsh Manor.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #18422 - #18490) were presented and approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest:

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Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer