

DECEMBER 8, 2015

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, Greg Matt, Linda Berndt 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 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: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mrs. Guzman from Guzman Jewelry Store came before the Council to request increased police patrols near her business.

Jack Givens came before the board to speak out against the rate increase for sewer and water.

RE: WATER AND SEWER RATE DISCUSSION

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented a new rate ordinance for water and a new rate ordinance for sewer. Mayor Chambers noted that the rates hadn't been increased for eight years and are among the lowest in the area.

The Clerk-Treasurer told the council that Indiana code calls for rates sufficient to cover maintenance, operating costs, upgrades as well as debt and interest on the debt. He said he felt that at this time rates need to be raised. Houston asked the Council to be prepared to vote on the proposals at the next meeting. A general discussion took place concerning the Ordinances.

RE: FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KNOX AND CENTER TOWNSHIP

The fire protection agreement between the City of Knox and Center Township were mailed to the Councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. It was noted that the agreement was the same as has been in effect for the last few years. Ron Parker made a motion seconded by Don Kring to accept the contract as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that the City received its fall settlement for taxes. That will be reflected in the next fund report.

Sewer lien money was also received for outstanding bills of \$2,335.61, Clerk-treasurer Houston said the windows at the Girl Scout Cabin need to be replaced. Two bids were received. One was from Starke County Glass for \$4,739.60. The other was from Home Pro for \$3,951.00. Councilman Kring asked that the Clerk-Treasurer to get another local bid.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said he and Clerk-Treasurer Houston had met with the Gateway Committee earlier Tuesday. They want to move forward with turning the Gateway property over to the City. They are not sure what to do with the Fennema House at this time. The Council will have to decide if they want to accept the house. There will be another meeting in January about the Gateway properties.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember Greg Matt noted that Marsh Manor on Main Street is for sale again. It is in need of major repairs. He would like to see it torn down.

Councilmember Jeff Berg said the rezoning map needs to be updated.

RE: FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KNOX, CENTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND JACKSON TOWNSHIP

The fire protection agreement between the City of Knox, Center Township Fire Department and Jackson Township was mailed to the Councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. It was noted that the agreement was the same as has been in effect for the last few years. Ron Parker made a motion seconded by Don Kring to accept the contract as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and NO (0) nays.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Docket Book Voucher #21218 - #21323) 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