

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session on Tuesday August 25, 2015 at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Linda Berndt, Jeff Berg, Greg Matt, Ron Parker and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Mayor, Rick Chambers was absent.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RE: ALLEY NORTH OF 801 S PORTLAND

Local Citizen, Steve Dodge, Came before the board to compliment the City for a job well done on the alley located next to his property at 801 S Portland. He said several people from the neighborhood have commented to him how much better the area is.

RE: WOODSTARKE FESTIVAL

Local citizen, Mary Bendt gave an update to the council on the Wood Starke Festival to be held Saturday, August 29, at the Wythogan Park.

The banner blew down, but has been retrieved and is at the Gateway Building. A couple from Bass Lake, Bob and Marlene Adkins have agreed to donate the remaining \$600.00 to the festival for the main stage. Wood Starke is sponsored by the Moving Starke County Forward 501C3. Mrs. Bendt also thanked the City for their donation of \$300.00. There will be music, snacks, art a car show etc. all free.

RE: CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Jeff Houston reported that the City received a rebate check from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. This caps the amount of money insurance companies can spend on advertising, sales, salaries and promotion at 20%. The remaining 80% has to be spent on actual health care benefits. The City received a check for \$2,426.44. The City pays 85% of the employee premiums, so the City will keep about \$2,000.00. The individual employees that are enrolled in the plan will get the other 15% or about \$20.00 that they will receive in a separate check.

The homeowner with an Unusually large utility bill that was mentioned by Councilman Kring at the last council meeting had his home checked for leaks. A small leak was detected and the homeowner notified.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reminded the council that a rate study has been completed on the utilities by Umbaugh and that the sewer and water operating funds are running low. He asked that they review their information that was emailed to them in preparation of a presentation of findings by John Julian at an upcoming meeting.

RE: MAYORS REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that the Mayor was working with local attorney Todd Walsmith in obtaining quit claim deeds for property obtained from the county on the commissioners sale. Some of these properties are part of the Blight Elimination Program.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember Linda Berndt gave an update on the Harvest Festival that will be held September 19 and 20. At the last organizing meeting representatives of the Moose Lodge attended and said they are going to hold an auction after the parade on Sunday. They are asking for donations to be auctioned off for seed money for next years Harvest Festival. The next meeting is September 2 at City Hall at 11:00 AM.

Councilman Kring said the Mayor sent out an email noting that the Street Department will start paving the streets of East, Lake and 300 East next week.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Docket Book, Voucher #20711 - #20768) 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