

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST on Tuesday March 24, 2015 with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Ron Parker, Greg Matt, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt. and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Councilman Don Kring 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. Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF NANCY J DEMBOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION 5/5/15

Mayor Chambers presented a letter to the Council from the Starke County Election Board requesting the use of the Nancy J. Dembowski Community Center for use as a polling facility for the 2015 primary election held on May 5, 2015. Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to approve the request. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: START UP MONEY FOR 2015 HARVEST FESTIVAL

Mayor Chambers said the Harvest Committee was requesting some start up money. A general discussion took place on the merits of continuing the festival or concentrating on the Wood Starke festival instead. The festival is scheduled to take place September 19 and 20 Saturday and Sunday.

Ron Parker made a motion to appropriate \$2,500.00 as start up money for the Festival from the Edit Fund. Linda Berndt seconded the motion. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston gave a legislative update on legislation pending in Indianapolis. Three issues that were mentioned was recalculating assessed values for big box stores, SBOA funding and release of performance bonds.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston gave the tonnage reports for refuse and recycling for January and February. He said his office has been working on the water re-bonding and grant administration.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Dave Matsey reported that he is also working on the water re-bonding.

In addition he has been working on a towing agreement and the water tower lease.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers informed the Council that City Hall was shutdown Monday due to a power outage that affected another 700 homes and businesses, including MPI. The driver of a garbage truck caught the telephone lines and snapped a line in half that was attached to City Hall. Although some customers were online at various times throughout the day. City Hall did not have power restored until about 5:00 PM.

Mayor Chambers handed out the following letter to the Council that Planning Administrator Bruce Williams is sending to local businesses.

City of Knox Planning Commission
Bruce W. Williams/Planning & Zoning Administrator

March 24, 2015

Dear Business Owner:

The City of Knox recently passed an outdoor storage and sales displays ordinance, which is attached. You now need a permit under the new ordinance or a special use permit if you can not meet the new ordinance's new guidelines. Under the old ordinance none of these were allowed and the City of Knox felt it was better for the business owners to allow these practices. You need to be in compliance within 45 days to avoid any fines and penalties. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 574-772-5445.

Sincerely;

/s/Bruce Williams
Planning/Zoning Commissioner

Mayor Chambers handed out copies of a LETTER FROM IDEM renewing Reagent Chemical's permits.

The BZA met about the flea market north of town. The owners are being required to install a six foot high fence across the front of the property as well as requiring storage of items 5 feet from the property line. The owners are working with the Building Administrator on signage issues.

The Mayor has signed contracts for the last two homes on the re-hab housing grant list. One home was completed and the owner sent a thank you note to the Mayor and Council.

