

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday May 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Greg Matt, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt, Ron Parker and City Attorney, Dave Matsey.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Chambers said that Ordinance #1142 regulating outdoor displays and storage needs to be passed, rejected or amended. It will be added to next meetings agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Two typos were corrected. Don Kring made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and presented. Ron Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mary Bendt announced that there will be a county wide concert Sunday May 18th at North Judson High School Choirs and Bands from all three schools will perform together.

RE: BURN PERMIT FOR STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Chambers said he forwarded a video demonstrating the process to be used to burn the felled timber at the Knox Industrial Park. Jason Young from Thomas Excavating handed out information on an air curtain that will be used to cut down on the smoke and speed the burning process.

Bob Alois from Territorial Engineering explained that they had already received IDEM permit approval. It is a highly regulated process that has rules that must be observed each day.

A general discussion took place with the two men answering various questions posed by the Council. Ron Parker made a motion seconded by Linda Berndt to waive the burn permit fees and approve the burn permit. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT - MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Mayor Chambers said our Fire Chief, Kenny Pfost, could not attend the meeting but he has some objections to the agreement as it is now proposed. Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to table the discussion of the agreement until the next meeting. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and NO (0) nays.

RE: PENDING LITIGATION OFFER

City Attorney Dave Matsey said our insurance company had investigated a lawsuit against the City brought by a dispatcher at the jail. The City has already paid the \$1,000.00 deductible. Our insurance company is about to make an offer to settle. There is also a separate lawsuit against the County and Sheriff that involve different issues such as wrongful termination that does not involve the City. Attorney Matsey said he wanted to keep the Council apprised of the status.

RE: ORDINANCE #1146 - FLOOD HAZARD AREA FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD AND FINAL READING

Mayor Chambers said some changes needed to be made to flood plain Ordinance #1139. The City Attorney thought it would be better to write a complete new ordinance to cover the changes the state required. Ordinance #1146 would completely replace #1139.

Don Kring made a motion seconded by Greg Matt to approve Ordinance #1146 on first reading by title only. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays. Greg Matt made a motion seconded by Ron Parker to suspend the rules and proceed with a second reading. Motion passed unanimously with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to approve Ordinance #1146 by title only. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Greg Mat made a motion seconded by Don Kring to suspend the rules and proceed with a third reading. Motion passed unanimously with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve Ordinance #1146 for third and final reading. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVE PHONE BILL FOR KELLY CLEMONS - WWTP SUPERVISOR

Mayor Chambers told the council that the city has been having trouble with the telephones at the water and wastewater utilities, Kelly Clemons, the Wastewater Superintendent has had to use her personal phone to conduct City business. As a result, her phone went over her allowable minutes limit and she was charged an additional \$23.00. Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to have the City pay \$23.00 to Supervisor Clemons for the additional charge on her phone. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Councilmember Berndt voiced concerns about the spotty telephone service for the City offices and by the fact that City offices weren't listed in the Century Link phone book. Clerk-Treasurer Houston told her he would have the phone numbers of City Department printed on the utility bills. The City's website and utility clerks e-mail address are already on the bills.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that the 2007 K-9 patrol car was going on sale on e-bay. It's a Crown Victoria with about 95,000 miles on it.

The Clerk-Treasurer gave an update on the insurance programs that the City offers to employees. He is also meeting a representative from 1st Source about property and causality insurance on Friday. A \$410.00 rebate check was received for changing to a different carrier for our blanket bond for the City.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said a company came in April that cleaned out the forced mains. 1700 linear feet were cleaned. The volume at the south side fire station lift station increased from 156 gallon per minutes to 202 gallons per minute after it was cleaned. The new water line at Henry Drive has improved that water flow on State Road 8 and Williams Street. The hydrant at the jail sight went from 520 to 840 gallons per minute at 30 psi. That line supplies 28 hydrants in that area and those have also been improved similarly. This project saved the county \$150,000 due to not having to add a storage tank and tower or additional pump at the jail project site.

On May 5th the City was awarded a planning grant for \$39,600.00. The side walk program is on schedule. \$10,000.00 has been budgeted. If all homeowners pay, it will cost the City a little more than \$12,000.00 so the Council would have to find more money.

The Farmers Market will begin Saturday June 7th. It will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. There is \$500.00 budgeted for the banner and advertising. The town wide yard sale was a big success. There were seven dumpsters filled with trash that was removed. The City paid John Embry to police the area during the weekend and make sure people weren't dumping trash on the ground. Maps provided at the Moose listed over 70 yard sales, but some more were held, but weren't listed. Sixty pieces of electronics were also collected that will be given to Habitat For Humanity in Plymouth. The shredding event also went well. The truck became filled and will return in two weeks to finish shredding the City's documents. The new portable vacuum machine has already been used on 14 pits by the water department. There will be a fund raiser for the fireworks on June 21st at the Downtown Depot from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM and cost \$10.00 a ticket. This will be the only fireworks fund raiser this year. The depot property is out of the trusts name and is in the name of Gateway. The City Attorney is looking over the paperwork now. The Mayor will get with Mr. Shilling and Mr. Weaver and come up with a proposal on turning over the property to the City.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Don Kring asked about the cleaning of the forced mains and if there is a regular schedule to clean them. The Mayor said there aren't a lot of mains and we don't have a lot of problems with them, but that there is a regular schedule.

Councilmember Kring asked if it were possible to improve handicapped accessibility to the Community Center by making a marked crossing from the pocket park to the South of the Center.

He said a citizen in his district had complained. He asked if we would like to take out the parking place to make it easier to cross there.

Mayor Chambers said the ramp located there was for use of the lawn mower and not for handicapped people to cross there. They should cross at the corner. City Attorney Matsey said it was not advisable to put handicapped parking there. There are state requirements and could be liability problems if you direct people to cross in the middle of the block.

Councilman Greg Matt asked about the two signs by Barnet's Restaurant that state parking is for their patrons only. The Mayor said it is not an official sign and is not enforceable. Councilman Matt said we should ask that they remove them. City Attorney Matsey said he would look into it.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #18351 - #18421) were presented and approved.

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest:

Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer