

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 Aloï 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.

