

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session on Tuesday September 22, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST at the Knox City Hall with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers. Linda Berndt, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, and Don Kring. Councilmember, Greg Matt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey were 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. Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Resident Mary Bendt said she had attended an organizing meeting about an event for the State of Indiana Centennial. It would be held in the Wythogan Park on October 6 and 7 of 2016. The Mayor told her to be sure to approach the Park Board about reserving the date.

Melinda Antell, Public Sector Solutions Representative for Waste Management came before the Council to see if the City had any concerns or problems with the service the City is receiving. She said she had spoken to the Clerk-Treasurer earlier in the day and he had asked about receiving more recycling bins or perhaps an alternative to the bins. She said she will see to it that the City receive some bins. In the future when the contract with Waste Management is up in April of 2016 the City could possibly go to a 65 gallon cart and have recycle pick up every other week.

Mrs. Guzman from Guzman Jewelry came before the board to relate to the Council the problems they are having with their business neighbor, O's Tap. She said they are putting their dumpster on Guzman's property. Patrons of O's are drinking in the alley and throwing bottles, trash etc. on their property. They claim there is also excessive noise and occasional fights. Mayor Chambers said the police have been notified of the situation and the Guzman's have been told to contact the police when ever there is a problem. The mayor has told the police to patrol the alley more often especially on the weekends to avoid problems. Councilman Jeff Berg asked for a meeting with the police chief about the situation.

RE: STARKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PEGGY BRETTIN

Peggy Brettin and Doctor and Mrs. Roger Smith came before the board to discuss a 100 year celebration of the Schricker home on Main Street on November 7 and 8.

The Society was concerned that the City may have issues with the erection of a temporary tent and parking availability.

Mayor Chambers said the Society should do a press release about the event and give details about parking. He said there should be no issues with erecting a tent as long as it is located on their property. The council could actually close Main Street for the event, if necessary.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2016 BUDGET ADOPTION

Mayor Chambers opened the public hearing for the adoption of the 2016 budget. Clerk-Treasurer Houston asked that all those present please sign in as present at the meeting. The sign in sheet will be placed in the budget file.

The City will receive the non-binding review from the County by October 1. Adoption will take place October 13.

The budget calls for a 2% raise for City employees. The budget is over the growth quotient of 2.6% so it will need to be cut when we get our budget order. Additional cuts may be needed in April after the circuit breaker credits are figured in. The total budget is 3.25 million dollars and the property tax levy is 1.6 million.

Mayor Chambers closed the public hearing.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston said beginning Monday there will be more options for paying utility bills. The City will be using an on-line billing system letting residents get their bills by email and pay their bills on-line. Anyone with an email address on file would receive a notification on the 10th that their bill was coming due and another on the 22nd saying they are ready to be shut off. The system is voluntary and should be a convenience for customers as well as saving the city money for mailing costs.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said long time Wastewater employee Sterling Patrick has been off on sick leave and has started to have to pay his own insurance premium. The Mayor and some other City employees have kicked in to assist in paying the premium for him.

The Mayor said we now have to pay \$15.00 per email address, so if the council isn't using it let him know and he will eliminate unnecessary addresses.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Docket Book Voucher #20825 - #20895) were presented

Attest: _____

Rick Chambers, Mayor