

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST on July 28, 2015 with the following members present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Jeff Berg, Greg Matt, Linda Berndt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Mayor, Rick Chambers was absent.

Council President, Don Kring called the meeting to order. 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. Councilmember, Greg Matt asked for a correction to the Council Items section.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to approve the minutes as presented with correction. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PETITION TO ESTABLISH STREET ON EXISTING DEDICATION - CURRENT ALLEYWAY NEXT TO 801 S BOWER

Local resident, Steve Dodge came before the Council to request that the City use the existing City right of way at 801 S Bower to divert traffic away from the unofficial alley on a portion of his property. He presented evidence to the Council at an earlier meeting that he believes shows a 33 ft wide street was dedicated between Bower and Portland Street.

Ron Parker made a motion to have Street Department Superintendent, Jeff Borg mark out the existing alleyway and investigate what work needs to be done. Jeff Berg seconded the motion and the motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

The Council will meet at 6:30 PM before the next Council meeting at the alleyway to inspect the property. President Kring asked that the Mayors Secretary highlight the early meeting time on the next agenda.

RE: CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer, Houston presented the 2016 Budget Calendar to the Council. He noted that it was approved by the DLGF field representative during a meeting on July 27th. He stressed it was important for the Council to stick to the calendar to insure time limits are met that are required by the state. Important dates are as follows: July 28-Upload Budget form 3 to Gateway; August 11-Budget goes to County Council; September 22-Public Hearing; October 13-Budget Adoption; October 14-Upload Final Budget To Gateway.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Budget Form 3 for the Council to review. He noted the Hearing date, adoption date etc. The estimated Civil Max Levy is \$1,422,119. The total Budget is \$3,255,408. and the current tax levy is \$1,593,964.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the form ones with the Budget for each department to the Council for them to review. He explained how to read the form for each appropriation in each department and told them if they want to see any other budget forms they are available in his office.

Houston told the Council they may want to think about rewriting the peddlers license. He recently had a request for a used car sale of one week and didn't think the present ordinance is adequate to cover such circumstances.

Umbaugh has finished the rate study for the water and sewer utilities and the Councilmembers should have received an email with them. Clerk-Treasurer Houston encouraged the Council to review the information and when they wanted John Julian to address the findings he would be asked to attend a meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston told the Council that new thermostats are being installed at the Community Center that will be wifi capable. They will be programmable and allow for heating or cooling to be applied to specific rooms. This should help reduce heating and cooling costs in the building.

Another issue at the Center was the need to patch a section of the roof to stop leaks. There are approximately two dozen patches in that area of the roof already. He asked the contractor to also give him an estimate of the cost of a metal roof. He explained that this wouldn't be done immediately, but he thought it would behoove the Council to start considering the cost now.

RE:: MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Chambers will be having a meeting on Wednesday with Heidi May and Ann Mannix on the Blight Elimination Grant.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember, Linda Berndt noted that the Farmers Market is not going well. She suggested that perhaps it needs to be moved. There seems to be a lack of vendors.

Councilmember Don Kring noted that there has been a lot of work by the sewer, water and street departments in the area of Lake Street and East Street. They have done a nice job and cleaned the area up well after the work was done in preparation of the paving.

Councilmember Jeff Berg noted two street lights that were burned out. These can be turned in by going on line. The city pays a flat fee per light to NIPSCO whether the light is working or not.

Berg noted that a waste hauler picked up trash recently at 3:18 AM. There is an ordinance regulating how early haulers can operate.

Councilmember Berndt reported that vandalism has already occurred at the new Serenity Park in Knox. Clerk-Treasurer Houston said a police report was made and the contractor said it should be able to sand our some of the damage. Councilmember Berndt said there should be strict repercussions for people committing vandalism, perhaps community service.

A general discussion took place concerning police coverage and patrols at night; as well as having a more visible presence.

Councilmember Greg Matt made the following comments:

The Redskin Trail sign needs to be replaced.

The South side of the sign is faded out and can't be read.

The Belavita sign on Heaton Street needs to be taken down, It is not permissible.

The street sign is down at John and Shield Street.

In Brown Circle a trailer parked at the curb in the street, it has a plate and tail lights, but has been sitting for 3 or 4 weeks.

There is a new plaque at Serenity Park noting its historic location. He encouraged the Council to stop and see it.

Councilmember Matt noted that the Harvest Festival is struggling and has only a few vendors. Vendors will only be here one day (Saturday). The parade will be on Sunday. The Council gave \$2,500. start up money for the festival and Councilman Matt suggested that it was time to give some of that money to the Wood Starke Festival instead.

Councilmember Matt said the new roof on the gazebo at Serenity Park will have a red metal roof. The school would like to have a cupola with the owl and crescent moon weather vane that is a copy of the original one that was on top of the Knox High School. The metal shop at the meddle school has the capability of making a copy. Mr. White, the contractor, asked for donations for the project. Clerk-Treasurer Houston said he could handle any donations through the donations and special events fund.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Docket Book, Voucher #20546 - #20616) were presented and approved.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

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Don Kring, Council President

Attest:

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Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer