

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday March 26, 2014 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Greg Matt, Ron Parker, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt and City Attorney Dave Matsey.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to add fireman Wayne Noah to the agenda. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

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 Greg Matt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZEN COMMENTS - ROBIN BANKS

Robin Banks came before the Council to ask what the City is doing to get her water on. She has been frozen up for eight weeks.

Mayor Chambers explained what the City was doing and that five residences were still frozen up. She will have to wait until the weather warms up enough to thaw the line.

RE: FIREMAN'S INSURANCE BENEFITS

Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to pay Wayne Noah \$2,003.03 in compensation for lost wages in exchange for a release from claims from him. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MARVIN MCLAUGHLIN - HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Marvin McLaughlin came before the Council to request that the Council lease the City's railroad right-of-way to the Historical Society to make available additional space for a new museum. He said that society already has permission from Gateway to build on their land, but wants the additional land for an entrance from Heaton Street and to make the building more presentable.

The Council felt that granting the lease would be premature given that the Gateway property is supposed to be signed over to the City, but hasn't been yet. Mr. McLaughlin stressed that all parties need to work together.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to table the agreement to lease the railroad right-of-way. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PLANNING COMMISSION - REVISED FEES ORDINANCE #1141 - 3RD AND FINAL READING - FAILED

A revised version of Ordinance #1141 was presented to the Council. Planning Commission member Mary Bendt said she would like to see Article VI (g) define what a roofing system is. The Ordinance was sent back to the Planning Commission for recommendation or revision. No final vote was taken.

RE: PLANNING COMMISSION - ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TITLE IX, C-2 SEC. 8-OUTSIDE STORAGE ORDINANCE #1142 - 3RD AND FINAL READING - FAILED

A revised version of Ordinance #1142 was presented to the Council. Don Smith from Smith Farm Store and Mitch Thompson from Grow Your Own Garden Store, both objected to the set back restrictions. The Ordinance was sent back to the Planning Commission for recommendation or revision. No final vote was taken.

RE: PLANNING COMMISSION AND SUB-DIVISION - RESOLUTION # 1-2014

Teresa Daumer is petitioning the Planning Commission to rezone a portion of her property. The Commission gave a favorable recommendation.

City Attorney Matsey said the map that was presented did not match with the GIS. It also appears that a building is being split into two zoning classifications. A general discussion took place concerning the proposal. Attorney Matsey said he will do research on the property and write an amending ordinance to be presented at the next Council meeting.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that one of the workers compensation claims the City had concerning an officer that was injured is being kept open while it is under subrogation. This means that the insurance company is trying to re-coup the \$6,500.00 claim from the offender that injured the officer. If they are successful it could help keep our workers comp rate lower.

The Clerk-Treasurer has been working with Anthem Insurance on the 125 cafeteria plan for pre tax insurance. This plan should be on file in case of an IRS revenue department audit. Our main 125 plan is through Colonial, but we deal with many different companies such as Hylant, Colonial, Anthem, Downey, Nationwide, Argonant and Aflac. Clerk-Treasurer Houston would like to cut down on the number of companies the City deals with as well as become code compliant.

The Clerk-Treasurer recently attended the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers at Ball State. Charlie Pride from the State Board of Accounts outlined new procedures for audits. The state did have 300 auditors and now has about 190. There will be a complete reorganization

of the department that they will learn about at the June school.

He also learned about new records retention schedules that should make record destruction much easier for the City.

The Township Trustee made her first fire truck payment for 2014 of \$14,380.00 and a fire protection payment of \$15,000.00.

The City is making it's last payment on the City Annex Building of \$27,540.00.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers presented the following letter from Cathy Miller at Area Five to the Council.

Area Five  
Dylan Sheets  
807 S. Bower Street  
Knox, In 46534

March 20, 2014

Dear Mr. Sheets:

Spring is on the way and the Knox Owner Occupied Rehab project is moving ahead!! Thank you so much for your patience.

Our next steps:

\* In early April I will be sending out income re-verification forms. This process was completed previously; but the validation is current for 6 months only. I realize that most of your household incomes have not changed; however, we are abiding by the State guidelines and must show income verification documents in each homeowner file until your home reaches the rehab/construction phase. When those forms arrive, please fill them out and return them to me in a timely fashion. I will include postage paid envelopes to make it easier.

\* Ken Ward will be completing the scopes of work for each home. The State must review each scope and approve them. It will take the State 3 - 4 weeks for their approval procedure. After reaching this step, we will begin the bid process with the contractors.

\* Additional paperwork to be requested: I will be asking for updated homeowner's insurance documents as needed. Also keep in mind that property taxes are due in May 2014. Another State guideline is that they stay currently paid to date. Please make sure that you reach that benchmark as it is a requirement of the program.

The construction/rehab phase will take place June - October 2014.

We realize that the grant cycle is lengthy. Keeping in mind all of the State regulations and rules that the City of Knox must follow, we have the remainder of the program mapped out to reach all of those benchmarks.

If you have any questions you may contact me at 574-737-2144.

Sincerely,  
/s/Cathy Miller  
Development Specialist

The Mayor said he is still working with Anne Mannix on the Neighborhood Redevelopment Grant.

He is also still looking for an animal control officer. The Mayor has contacted the Human Society to see if something can be worked out with them.

The garbage contract is up for renewal the end of July. We can get one more two year extension and will be able to keep the current rates. The Mayor is waiting to hear back from Waste Management.

Mayor Chambers reported that he is attending a Mayor's Institute the end of March and has been teaching a class for Five (5) Tuesdays.

Mayor Chambers said Dave Johnson wants to have a community garden on a City lot at Smith Court. Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to allow it to be located there. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and NO(0) nays.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Boucher #18179 - #18230) were presented and approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest:

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Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer