

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday August 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Greg Matt, Don Kring, Ron Parker, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey.

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. Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PEST CONTROL CONTRACT

Samantha Mattes with Mattes Exterminators came before the Board to dispute the reason for the City passing on their bid for pest control for the City. She offered to re-negotiate the contract. Mayor Chambers said the contract hasn't been awarded yet because he is still going over the bids with the City Attorney. Ms. Mattes presented an amended bid and asked the Mayor to look at it and give it special consideration as a local business.

RE: STARKE COUNTY YOUTH CLUB

Irene Szakonyi with the Starke County Youth Club came before the Board to introduce the organization to them. She gave a re-cap of what the organization had done to help the City and the County in the last year. This year they received a grant for one of their elementary school programs, but have been negatively impacted by sequestration. She asked that the City be open to partnering with the organization perhaps through the CDBG program. In addition to that, they are advertising for candidates for the Board of Directors and volunteers for their mentoring program.

RE: WATER DEPARTMENT/NEW JAIL NEEDS

Water needs for the new jail were discussed. Presently the City can supply a maximum of 500 gallons per minute. The jail will need 750 gallons per minute due to the fire suppression system. Several alternatives were discussed. Scott Carnegie from DLZ, Todd Gardner, Knox Water Superintendent and Kathy Norem representing the County all spoke. A final decision on a course of action will be taken at a special meeting on Tuesday August 20, 2013 at Knox City hall.

RE: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NIPSCO

Mayor Chambers said he would like to sign an extension of the present lease with Nipsco for rent at the City Annex Building for \$200.00 a month at basically the same terms. Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to authorize the Mayor to sign a one year lease with Nipsco. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE #1102 AND #958

A general discussion took place concerning revised fees that were approved by the planning commission on July 2, 2013. Mayor Chambers and City Attorney Matsey suggested several definitions that need to be added and further explanation of the meaning of certain terms. The Mayor suggested that the City Attorney and Planning Commissioner get together and further work on the changes. Planning Commission member Mary Bendt asked that the entire planning commission be involved with whatever is decided.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to table the amendments. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 2014 HOLIDAY DATES

Mayor Chambers presented the following schedule to the council:

CITY OF KNOX HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

January	1st Wednesday - New Year's Day
	20th Monday - Martin Luther King Day
February	17th Monday - Presidents Day
April	18th Friday - Good Friday
May	6th Tuesday - Election Day
	26th Monday - Memorial Day
July	4th Friday - 4th of July
September	1st Monday - labor Day
October	13th Monday - Columbus Day
November	4th Tuesday - Election Day
	11th Tuesday - Veteran's Day
	27th Thursday - Thanksgiving Day
	28th Friday - Thanksgiving Friday
December	25th Thursday - Christmas Day
	26th Friday - Day After Christmas
January 2015	1st Thursday - New Years Day

\*\*\*October 31st 2014 - Friday Trick or Treat Hours 5:30-7:00 PM\*\*\*

The Mayor said that the handbook also lists "election days and any additional days so deemed by ordinance". He noted that May 6 and November 4 are election days in 2014, but City Hall is no longer used as an election polling location. He asked the Council if they still wanted City

hall closed for those days as has been done in the past.

Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to add those election days to the Holiday schedule. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2014

2014 City of Knox Council Meetings

**\*\* Regular Meetings Held: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of Each Month\*\***

Place: Knox City hall

Time: 6:45 PM Claims Available for Council

7:00 PM Meeting Begins

Tuesday: January 14, 28, February 11, 25, March 11, 25, April 8, 22, May 13, 27, June 10, 24, July 8, 22, August 12, 26, September 9, 23, October 14, 28, Monday November 10, Tuesday November 25, December 9, 23.

Mayor Chambers said Council meeting dates are always the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM other than Tuesday November 11th. The Council changed that meeting to Monday November 10th due to Veterans Day. Don Kring made a motion seconded by Ron Parker to approve those dates. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: BOARD OF WORKS MEETING DATES

City of Knox 2014

Board Of Works Meetings

**\*\*Regular Meetings Held: 4th Wednesday Of Each Month\*\***

Place: Knox City Hall

Time: 9:30 AM

Wednesday January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 29, November 26, December 17.

Mayor Chambers said the Board of Works meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM. He suggested moving the December meeting from Wednesday December 24th to One week earlier on December 17th. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to approve of these dates with that change. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-treasurer Houston reported that Joe Donnelly's Office called the Mayor's Office and reported that the City has been awarded an OCRA Grant for the patrol car at 75% of the cost. The grant will be for \$24,900.00 and our match will be \$8,296.00 from Edit Funds.

The audits are completed and they were good but there was a couple of comments. An exit conference will be held soon with the Clerk-Treasurer, Mayor and President of the Council.

There was an appeal for food donations from the food bank, so for this month the Clerk-Treasurer's Office will be collecting food.

The County Clerk has contacted the City about shredding documents. This will be coordinated with the City Attorney and other offices and the historical society. This should take place within the month.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Matsey reported that the Toll Brothers IRS Audit is coming to a conclusion. They are trying to come up with a closing agreement that could involve the redemption of the bonds. Ice Miller is doing the legal work.

There is still an issue with Hamilton Drive. The state believes that MPI needed to be more involved with the process of deeding the property to the County.

The City Attorney is processing about eight or nine ordinance violations through the court. The documents are ready, but the court doesn't know how to file an ordinance violation with their computer system. Only state violations are listed now. Perhaps all of the local ordinances will have to be fed into the system to be able to process them.

RE: STEVE DODGE PROPERTY SALES

Steve Dodge has offered two lots in Parkview to the City. They have been cleared already. He would sell both for \$5,000.00 total. They are located on Smith Court. In the past the City has purchased property to clean it up in that area. Mayor Chambers appointed Don Kring and Greg Matt to a Committee to meet with Mr. Dodge to discuss the purchase.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said the City has always awarded \$100.00, \$50.00. and \$25.00 for best Christmas decorations at Christmas. There is money in his budget to continue to do that again this year.

The "Unsung Hero" event is Sunday September 15th at the Community Center. Nominations will be accepted through September 2.

A small event is being planned in place of Harvest Fest this year. It will be Saturday August 24 and will be called "Harvesting Our Future". It will have a kids day in the park and a car show in the park. There will also be a parade contact people are Barb Roberts and Colleen Jones. A local Church is also planning a kids day on that Saturday utilizing the City parking lot.

The Water Department upgraded eleven homes that had less than 3 gallons of water per minute. With the repairs all homes now have at least 12 gallons per minute flow rate. Citizens in the area are very pleased. 1780 feet of galvanized water lines were also able to be replaced. A total of \$3,318.00 has been spent.

J.W. Hicks recently held an open house and dinner that the Mayor, Clerk-treasurer and City Council Berg attended. It was a very nice event that included the workers, suppliers and customers.

The Mayor has a committee appointed to make the Harvest Festival a three day event again next year.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Council President Greg Matt noted that there is still a problem with people parking on the sidewalks. He will supply the Mayor with a list of addresses.

There have been complaints of people on golf carts being out after dark. People under age driving and mopeds under age and no helmets. The City has supplied the County with a copy of our golf cart ordinance because they are looking into adopting an ordinance of their own due to problems at the lake.

The clothing bins that the City has set up are very popular with the Citizens.

Claybaugh lift station is scheduled to begin re-building in September.

Don Kring noted that he would prefer to use local contractors when possible.

Jeff Berg expressed sympathy for Jeff Borg, the MVH Superintendent on the death of his father.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly field vouchers (see Voucher Docket Book, Voucher #17024 - #17126 inclusive) 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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Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest:

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Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer