

The Common Council of the City of Knoxville met in regular session at the Knoxville City Hall 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 and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Councilmember Ron Parker was absent.

RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Chambers asked to add as item 4-B "Ordinance #1140 - Toll Brothers Revenue Bonds" and item 7-B "Police Rank" 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 Jeff Berg asked that the name of Pulaski County Sheriff Geyer be changed from Mark to Mike with that change, Jeff Berg made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with the change made. Motion was seconded by Linda Berndt. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - TOLL BROTHERS BONDS

Mayor Chambers opened the public hearing for the Toll Brothers Bonds.

Tyler Kalachnik, an attorney from Ice Miller explained why Toll Brothers wants to reissue bonds. They would pay off the 2006 series and have a little left over for improvements. They will be backed by Bank of America and will be of no obligation to the City. The debt limit of the City also would not be affected. Brian Trappe, Plant Manager of Toll Brothers in Knoxville asked that the Council approve the ordinance authorizing the issuance of the new bonds. He said they added additional truss capacity and upgrade some saws at the plant.

Charlie Weaver, Executive Director of Starke County Economic Development Commission spoke in favor of the ordinance. He noted that the company had actually spent more than originally promised. His hope is that eventually the factory will hire more employees.

City Attorney Matsey also spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that he was glad to see that Toll was doing well and plans to stay in the community.

The public hearing was closed.

RE: ORDINANCE #1140 - TOLL BROTHERS REVENUE BONDS

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Linda Berndt to approve Ordinance #1140 on first reading by title only. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to suspend the rules and have a second reading. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve Ordinance #1140 on second reading by title only. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to suspend the rules and have a third and final reading. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to approve ordinance #1140 on third and final reading by title only. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S COMPENSATION

Mayor Chambers said that on the recommendation of City Attorney, Dave Matsey the issue of volunteer fireman's compensation for lost time wages will be considered in an executive session.

RE: FIRE CONTRACT FOR CENTER TOWNSHIP

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the fire contract between the City of Knoxville and Center Township.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to approve the contract. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the interlocal agreement between the City of Knoxville and Jackson Township for fire protection. Fire Chief Kenny Pfof said he thought the area description was wrong.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston asked that the agreement be tabled till the next meeting and said he would attach a plat map. Linda Berndt made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to table the agreement until the February 11th meeting. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: POLICE RANK

Mayor Rick Chambers told the Council that Police Chief, Clint Norem requested another rank of sergeant in the department, making a total of two sergeant positions. This would allow the promotion of Corporal Dave Combs to that position. Mayor Chambers said the Board of Public Works and Safety had recently recommended the promotion on the merits of the corporals job duties and performance. The difference in pay of \$1,062.00 would come from the unfilled eighth

police officers salary.

Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to approve the addition of the sergeants position. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston, reported that he ordered three copies of the Indiana Elected Municipal Officials Handbook and will distribute them to the Councilmembers that requested them at the next council meeting.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Matsey is in the process of processing ordinance violations. He is expecting another batch to be filed soon. There will be a second tax sale on February 27th on properties that did not sell on the first sale. There are a number of properties in Parkview that the City may be interested in purchasing. Mr. Matsey has contacted the County and they may be willing to negotiate on a price. On second tax sale, the price can be lower than the amount owed on taxes. A minimum bid on some of the properties may be as low as \$35.00. If the properties are purchased, buildings would have to be razed. It could be 6 or 7 structures on nine lots. The Council would like the City Attorney to continue to talk to the County about these properties.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers issued the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Starke County is experiencing a high level of drug abuse and addiction that is devastating to our community's well being now and in future years; and
 WHEREAS, a network of community organizations are making increased education and treatment a top priority. Those groups realize that by working together we can address the addiction issues that affect our economic development and many other socio-economic factors; and
 WHEREAS, Starke County Corrections is offering a program called: NEW HOPE-Families and Addiction. The program covers education on the effects of addiction on the brain and body, how to find support, where to find other adults with loved ones struggling with these issues to whom you can talk, where do you find treatment, education on resources to pay for treatment, even how to stay healthy through worry and stress; and
 WHEREAS, Starke County Community Corrections is holding the NEW HOPE program each Tuesday night in February from 6 to 7 :30 pm CST at the Nancy J. Dembowski Community Center in Knox and the program is FREE to the public and will cover a different topic each week;
 NOW, THEREFORE, do I, Rick Chambers, Mayor of the City of Knox, Indiana hereby proclaim each Tuesday in February, NEW HOPE FOR FAMILIES DAYS, and urge all citizens of our county community to participate in all efforts to make Knox and Starke County a model of a healthy community.

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Mayor Chambers reported that KIRPC has formed a coalition that is seeking a brownfield grant. He presented the following letter and asked the council for permission to sign it.

January 15, 2014

Mr. Edwin Buswell, AICP
 Executive Director
 Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (KIRPC)
 PO Box 127
 Monon, IN 47959

Re: FY2014 U.S.EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Coalition

Dear Mr. Buswell:

The City of Knox acknowledges membership in the coalition; comprised of KIRPC, City of Delphi and City of Knox (the Coalition), constituted for the purpose of applying for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant to help foster badly needed brownfields redevelopment in the Coalition's 38 micro communities. Knox is a General Purpose Unit of Local government in the State of Indiana. The City of Knox understands the Coalition is applying for a \$400,000 U.S. EPA Brownfields Hazardous Substances Assessment Grant and a \$200,000 U.S. EPA Brownfields Petroleum Assessment Grant, and KIRPC will serve as the lead coalition member and grant recipient/administrator. Upon award of the grant, the City understands the Coalition members will be required to develop a binding Memorandum of Agreement to document the site selection process, allocation of funds, and programmatic mechanisms for implementing the grant project.

The City of Knox fully supports the Coalition, and looks forward to using the grant funds to revitalize brownfields for mutual benefit of the Coalition communities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays. Councilman Berg asked to be kept updated on any developments.

The City will have a shredding company in again this year some time this spring. The City has contracted with habitat for humanity for disposal of electronics. The City will pick them up on Thursdays which is the regular brush pick up day and store them in a City shed.

The City has used five loads of salt so far this year, but is still in good shape as far as what is still available.

The City has already spent more overtime so far this year than they did all of last year. There have been many water freeze ups this year especially in the Parkview Heights area.

The Mayor has contacted Waste Management concerning the garbage contract. The City Attorney will look into whether we will extend the contract or re-bid. All City garbage will be picked up this Thursday. No re-cycling will be done until next week.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket Book, Voucher #17920 - #17982 inclusive) were presented and approved.

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

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest:

Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer