

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. CST with the following members present: Rick Chambers, Mayor; Greg Matt, Linda Berndt, Jeff Berg and Ronald Parker, Council Members; Shari Spaid, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; and David Matsey, City Attorney. Council Member Kring was absent. The following proceedings were had to wit:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the previous meeting's minutes were sent to the council prior to meeting for their review. Council Member Matt made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Motion was second by Council Member Berg and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

RE: MARVIN McLAUGHLIN - HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Marvin McLaughlin representing the Starke County Historical Society came before the council stating that the Schricker home is becoming too small for a museum. It is also difficult to control the lighting and humidity which is not good for the exhibits. They felt that a good place to build is across from the Gateway Depot. They have permission to build on the land but they would also like the city to lease the railroad right away.

Council Member Parker stated that Council President Kring is not present and asked if this needed to be voted on now. Council Member Matt wants the council to confer with the park board before any decision is made. After discussion was held the council decided to ask the park board to attend next council meeting.

RE: ORDINANCE #1139 - FLOOD PLAN ORDINANCE - THIRD AND FINAL READING

The mayor presented Ordinance #1139 for the third and final reading. Council Member Matt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1139 by title only. Motion was second by Council Member Parker and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

(SPACE TO ATTACH ORDINANCE #1139)

RE: ORDINANCE #1141 - PLANNING COMMISSION - REVISED FEES ORDINANCE - 2nd READING

Mayor Chambers stated that he has talked to Charlie Weaver on the maximum improvement permit fees for commercial/industrial permits. It is \$5,000 for Starke County and North Judson, and only \$1000 in Hamlet. Mayor Chambers stated that he would like to keep it the same as Starke County.

After discussion was held Council Member Berndt made a motion to change commercial/industrial permit maximum from \$7,500. to \$5,000. (Sec. 4-251 line e). Motion was second by Council Member Matt and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

Council Member Parker made a motion to keep roof permit at \$50.00 (Sec. 4-251, add line (q) "roof permit - \$50.00 - Roofing System") and omit line stating "roof sheeting and roof replacement with no structural changes" in the paragraph following line (q). Motion was second by Council Member Matt and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

After further discussion Council Member Matt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1141 on the second reading with the approved changes. Motion was second by Council Member Berndt and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #1142 - OUTSIDE STORAGE - 2nd READING

Mayor presented alternatives on the wording of Section 8-A, paragraph 1. After discussion was held Council Member Parker made a motion to accept alternative 1 which reads: "1. Outdoor sales and displays shall be permitted only within an area not greater than 15% of the gross floor area of the building, except outdoor garden displays, which may have an area up to 50% of gross floor area less the percentage used for other outdoor sales and displays. The total combined outdoor displays may not exceed 50% including up to the 15% maximum for displays other than gardening sales. If the maximum is used for other displays, only 35% of gross floor area may be used for garden displays." Motion was second by Council Member Berg and was passed by a vote of Four (4) Ayes and No (0) Nays.

There was discussion held with the owner of Smith Farm Store on his outside storage and displays and how to comply with the ordinance. It was decided that Bruce Williams, Plan Commission inspector will get with Smith Farm Store to discuss each situation on the lot and work things out.

After discussion motion was made by Councilmember Berg to approve Ordinance #1142 on the second reading with the amendment made. Motion was second by Council Member Parker and was passed by a vote of Four (4) and No (0) Nays.

RE: ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Matsey is working on utility disconnects. He will be working with the clerk-treasurer and water superintendent on what to keep, what to omit and what needs to be clarified and will bring it to the next meeting.

Also Attorney Matsey stated that there has been paperwork signed on the Toll Brothers bonds and has been sent back.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor presented a report compiled by the different departments of the city explaining what each has done in 2013.

TIF money is building up. TIF funds can only be used for certain things. In the near future maybe come up with a project that can be funded by TIF.

We have had several applications for the sidewalk project. The fire department would like to see the sidewalk extended along the vacant lot on the west side of their property. If they can get sidewalk they are looking to put up a fence because of litter blowing from stores across the street.

Credit Funds: We have plenty of funds but plenty of it is promised this year for engineering fees on 300 E. and there is money still owed on the lift station.

Police Department is in good shape. They want to do work on the building in the offices. The garage area has water problem that they will be addressing.

Police Officer Todd Keen resigned as of March 15. We will look at prior applications that we received when we hired Todd. If needed, we can take more applications.

Mayor Chambers complimented the street department for the fine job they did this year.

Mayor stated that there is a lot of water coming into the wastewater plant from the rain recently. The wastewater superintendent is looking into new covers and bells. There are storm water funds being built up and the mayor told the superintendent that next year we may be able to start replacing them a few at a time. Each bell and cover is a little over \$400.00.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Council Member Matt asked when we can start procedures on Marsh Manor. Attorney Matsey needs to get with Inspector Bruce Williams.

Council Member Berndt asked about the status of the lift station. Mayor explained that the pump has been reinstalled and it performs according to the specs and we are looking at cleaning out the forced main. We may have to replace 300 feet of the forced main. They will clean out the existing main and go from there.

Council Member Berg asked about potholes at the railroad and Pearl Street. Street department has been out with patch working on potholes. The mayor stated that he has been in touch with INDOT regarding the potholes on the Heaton Street railroad tracks. He stated that INDOT will be working on it as soon as the weather breaks.

There are only about 5 or 6 residents still froze up. A few people have thawed out on their own this week.

Council Member Berg stated that he would like to see TIF money used for curbs and street where Water Street curves into Main Street.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCE

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, Voucher #18111-78) were presented and approved.

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest: _____
Shari Spaid, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer