

OCTOBER 8, 2013

REGULAR MEETING, KNOX COMMON COUNCIL

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present; Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Greg Matt, Don Kring, Jeff Berg, Linda Berndt and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Councilmember, Ron Parker was absent.

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 Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

City resident, Steve Dodge, came before the board to complain about children driving golf carts in the city. Mayor Chambers said he sent an email to Police Chief Clint Norem last week voicing his concerns. Other police have been advised of the city ordinance concerning the proper use of golf carts on city streets.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston said the Clerk-treasurer's office is thinking of going to a new module on utility work orders. It would be an add on to the Keystone soft ware that would be more efficient and help the department track specific accounts or addresses for problems or adjustments instead of having to leaf through a pile of work orders.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported attending classes at the annual IACT Conference in Indianapolis. Of special interest was one on DLGF Communications and the 1782 Budget order notice.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Matsey reported that he has discussed the memorandum of understanding on the water line extension with County Attorney Marty Lucas. He believes they are close to an agreement and will need signatures soon.

City Attorney Matsey is waiting for the Estoks to review the easement agreement for the water line extension for the County Jail Project. Milo Construction has been awarded the bid and the City Water Superintendent Todd Gardner and Territorial Engineering will supervise the construction.

Attorney Matsey has put together with the Clerk-Treasurer's office a list of about 40 of the most frequently used ordinance violations. The system has now been up dated with JTAK code numbers. Some of the Ordinance violations will soon be processed.

Chief Norem told the Council they should consider the possibility of raising some of the fines for ordinance violations some, such as illegal parking, are very low. He noted that the cost involved doesn't come close to the expense of billing the fine, sending notices and sending an officer out to write the fine up. The board will discuss the matter further in the future.

City Attorney Matsey said it appears that the Toll Brothers Audit by the IRS is about to come to a close. Toll Brothers has sent a letter out lining an offer to pay off the bonds and a penalty.

Attorney Matsey is still working with the Planning Commissioner on outdoor storage and displays.

Attorney Matsey has had a conversation with Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Charlie Weaver on the easement for Hamilton Drive. It appears to him that the Department of Transportation and the State think that the City only has an easement for the property and not a deed. MPI will have to clarify what their position is. Charlie Weaver is now working on it with MPI.

RE: VARIANCE REFUND FOR GARY AND DARLENE DULIN

Mayor Chambers presented the following letter to the Council.

September 26, 2013

Re: ZV2013-3, Receipt #0773

T Whom It May Concern;

I recently advised a homeowner he needed to get a variance to have a horse on his property. I now have found out that since he is zoned agriculture he is allowed to have a horse and needs no variance. City Code has a 300 yard setback on horses, which he has to meet and since he can't meet the setback no horse is allowed, and there is no relief from this ordinance. Would you please reimburse Gary & Darlene Dulin their \$200.00 for the variance that the BZA can not hear. Thank you.

Sincerely;

/s/Bruce Williams
Planning/ Zoning Administrator

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to refund Mr. and Mrs. Dulin \$200.00. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chambers said the exterminator contract for the City with Arrow runs until July 0f 2014. He will award the contract then. Husband exterminators was the low bidder.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Mayor Chambers said someone was requesting email addresses for Councilmembers. Don Kring suggested that they could set up separate email address on the Knox web site. Mayor Chambers said he could set that up.

Council President Greg Matt noted that several council members and the Clerk-treasurer has just returned from he IACT conference and that it was very good. A general discussion took place about relatively inexpensive things a City can do to make it attractive to citizens and visitors.

The Mayor gave a short update on the lift station project at the request of council person, Jeff Berg.

Mayor Chambers reminded the Council of the Harvest Moon Dance featuring the big band "Sentimental Journey" being held on October 19th at the Nancy J. Dembowski Community Center.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket Book, Voucher #17320 - #17393 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.

Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer