

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the Knox City Hall 6:00 P.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder; Council Members Jeff Berg, Bill Gustafson, Don Kring, Sherry Cowen, and Jaime Gruszczynski.

There were no amendments.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 1/14/25

Copies of the previous minutes were mailed to the Council prior to the meeting for their review. Don Kring made a motion to approve minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: RESOLUTION 2025-RE1 – ADOPTION OF STARKE COUNTY MULTI HAZARD LITIGATION PLAN

Starke County EMA Director Tori Chessor updated the Council on the Starke County Multi Hazard Litigation Plan and the adoption of the Resolution for it. Don Kring made a motion to approve the adoption of Resolution 2025 - RE1. The motion was seconded by Jame Gruszczynski and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RESOLUTION 2025-RE1

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF KNOX INDIANA
ADOPTING THE STARKE COUNTY
MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Knox recognizes the threat that natural hazards post to people and property within the City of Knox; and

WHEREAS, Starke County, in conjunction with all participating jurisdictions located within, has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Starke County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Starke County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Knox from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Common Council of the City of Knox demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2024 Starke County Multi-Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Knox hereby adopts the 2024 Starke County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as attached hereto (as Exhibit A).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the adoption of this plan shall supersede the adoption of any prior Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Knox.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, while content related to local government may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require local government to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX THIS 28th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

Jeff Berg, Council President

Don Kring, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Bill Gustafson, Council Member

Jaime Gruszczynski, Council Member

Approved by the Mayor on this 28th day of Jan. 2025.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: ORDINANCE 2025 -OR1 – APPROVING BLANKET BOND

Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder presented Ordinance 2025-OR1 to the Council. Jeff Berg made a motion approving Ordinance #2025-OR1. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

ORDANCE 2025-OR1

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING BLANKET BOND

WHEREAS, the City of Knox, Indiana (“City”) at times amends, replaces, or creates Ordinances to ensure the effective governance of the City; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code (IC 5-4-1) mandates certain officials file an official bond for the faithful performance of duties; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code (IC 5-4-1-18) authorizes municipalities to carry “blanket bonds” on certain officials including: employees, commission members, and persons acting on behalf of the local government unit, including the officers, employees and contractors.

WHEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Knox desires to grant authority for the Clerk-Treasurer to utilize blanket bonds for officers, employees, and contractors of the City including the City’s Redevelopment Commission:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Knox, Starke County, Indiana:

1. The City’s Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to utilize blanket bonds to cover officers, employees, or contractors of the City.
2. Individual surety bonds are required for all persons in subsections 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c). A blanket bond shall not be used to cover any of the following:
 - a. Clerk-Treasurer.
 - b. Any person directed to file an individual bond by the fiscal body of the City; or
 - c. Any person who is an employee of the City and whose official duties include receiving, processing, depositing, disbursing, or otherwise having access to funds: (i) that belong to the Federal government, the state, a political subdivision, or other governmental entity; and (ii) in an amount that exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year.
3. Each bond must provide coverage in the amount required for the individual covered under the bond for one (1) year (the policy year) commencing on: i) the first day of the: calendar year; ii) the fiscal year of the political subdivision or governmental until or iii) the individual’s service in the office or position for which a bond is required.
4. A continuous bond may be used if the bond is renewed on a n annual basis for the period during which the individual serves in the office or position for which a bond is required; and provides coverage in the amount required for the individual covered under the bond for each policy year.

ADOPTED, PASSED AND ORDAINED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, this 28th day of January 2025.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Jeff Berg, Council President

Don Kring, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Bill Gustafson, Council Member

Jaime Gruszczynski, Council Member

Approved by the Mayor on this 28th day of January 2025.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: CLERK TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder informed the Council that the year's end is complete and we are currently working on the Annual Financial Report.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Estok updated the Council.

1. The City Hall remodel is almost completed. A short discussion was held about the new council table, chairs and the layout of the meeting room.
2. The property at 18 S Main, the former Depot Restaurant, has been obtained by the City. We will be getting estimates for demolition and possibly try for a Blight Elimination Grant. Also need ideas of use of the property after demo.
3. For the Moose Property development, the Mayor and Jeff have met with Veridus, a property managing group.
4. The Mayor has contacted the IHA inquiring about programs for affordable housing in the new subdivision.
5. Citizens leave your water running for the cold weather a little longer.
6. The Daddy/Daughter Dance is Saturday February 22 from 6-8:30 PM. Doors open at 5:30Pm. Tickets on sale at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office for \$25.00 per couple and \$10.00 per additional daughter. Open to ages 4 – 12 years old. Limit 200.
7. Movies in the Park, we have 3 sponsors so far. If a 4th sponsor is found a 4th movie will be played. Sponsorship is \$300.00 or a couple of people could co-sponsor a movie for \$150.00 each.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Sherry Cowen asked the Mayor about the new stop sign on Henry Drive. They will be installed in the spring. She also asked about concerts in the park. The free concert series in July, the one pay concert and Fall Bash will all happen again this year. June 21 will be a local Battle of the Bands. Jeff Berg updated the Council about hopefully finding a company to redo the light poles in the downtown area. Don Kring gave kudos to the City employees who helped with the remodel. Mayor Estok also mentioned to the Council to be thinking about projects for a possible DNR Grant in the parks.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, APV #37384 - #37447) were presented and approved. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer