

The Common Council of the City of Knoxville met in regular session Tuesday February 13, 2018 in the Knoxville City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Bertha Blue, Jeff Berg and Ron Parker, and City Attorney, Leslie Baker. Councilmember Tim Manns 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. Bertha Blue made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PURCHASE OF NEW FIRE TRUCK

Mayor Estok told the Council that Shawn Cain from KIRPC had contacted him and told him there were no grants available to help with the purchase of the new fire truck. The City will need to bond for the entire amount. Umbaugh said the maximum debt allowed would be about \$600,000.00 for the truck.

Kenny Pfost, Fire Chief said he estimates the truck would cost between \$575,000.00 and \$600,000.00 depending on who bids on it. He also said he has come up with a list of specs for the pumper truck. The new truck should be able to handle the larger buildings down town.

Jeff Berg made a motion to begin the process with Umbaugh for the bonding to purchase a new pumper fire truck. Ron Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

Advertising will begin as soon as possible.

RE: SCEDF – LARRY WICKERT

Larry Wickert, Interim Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation came before the board to introduce himself to the council. He mailed an activity report to the board for them to review. He mentioned that the community may want to do a retreat in the spring.

Mayor Estok spoke about the Stellar Communities program and how it is changing to include more cooperation between local communities. He thinks the foundation could help with that.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston asked that the Foundation pay close attention to what is going on in Washington with the new infrastructure bill if it passes. New opportunities may need to be addressed quickly.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that this is the time of year that the state requires various financial reports to be filed. The debt report and Post-Employment Benefits report have already been filed. He noted that the City is in the process of filing the annual financial report. The fund report showed that the City ended the year with approximately 3.87 more money than when the year started.

The Clerk-Treasurer's office is starting the lien process so delinquent sanitation bills will be added to people's spring tax bills.

The Clerk-Treasurer reminded the Citizens present to help out the Fire Department by cleaning snow away from water hydrants.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Estok said the City is starting to plan events for the New Year. His office sent out letters thanking people for their past donations from last year and asking for donations for this year.

The City is planning more movie nights in the park. We need about six sponsors for movies and six for concerts. Also needed are volunteers for upcoming events.

The City's first planning events meeting is set for February 22nd at 6:00 PM at the Knoxville Community Center.

The following dates of events were announced:

May 26th – Car & Bike Show/Cruise Night at Wythogan Park – Beer Garden, food and games throughout the day. More details coming soon!

“Concerts in the Park” at the new Wythogan Park Performance Stage – Details and dates to be determined! Help “sponsor a band!”

July 7th – Family Fun day 4th of July Parade and Fireworks Show at Wythogan Park – Family activities, food and music throughout the day! See Fireworks Sponsorship levels below!

GOLD SPONSORSHIP - \$500 OR MORE
 Donation includes advertising in media ads, on all event signage
 And advertising spotlight(s) on WKVI
 SILVER SPONSORSHIP - \$250
 Donation includes advertising in media ads and on all event signage.
 BRONZE SPONSORSHIP - \$150
 Donation includes advertising in media ads only

December 1st – Peppermint Parade and Santa arrives at Santa's House in Wythogan Park!

Mayor Estok informed the Council that a Public Meeting will be held on the 5 year Park Plan draft on Monday, February 26th at 6:00 at the Knoxville City Hall.

The Mayor asked each Councilmember to drive in their precincts and survey the streets for needed repairs. He would like input from them on what streets need to be a top priority and possible projects for Community Crossings Grant money.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Jeff Berg addressed the Council and Mayor about meetings missed by Councilmember Tim Manns. He noted the following:

Tim Manns- Knox Council Member-Council Absences for Total Term

2016 meetings missed-Mar 8th, Apr 12th, June 12th, Jun 28th, July 12th, Aug 9th, Sep 27th, Nov 9th, Nov 22nd, Dec 27th, 10 meetings missed out of 24 meetings.

2017 meetings missed-Jan 24th, Feb 28th, Mar 14th, Mar 28th, Apr 25th, May 9th, May 23rd, Jun 13th, Jun 27th, Jul 25th, Aug 8th, Aug 22nd, Sep 12th, Sep 26th, Oct 10th, Oct 24th, Nov 14th, Nov 28th, Dec 12th, Dec 27th-20 meetings missed out of 24 meetings.

2018 meetings missed-Jan 9th, Jan 23rd.

This amounts to 32 meetings missed since he took office. The last meeting he attended was July 11, 2017. Councilmen Berg asked the Mayor if there is a mechanism or State Statute that deals with absenteeism by an elected Councilmember.

Mayor Estok said there is, but the City cannot stop his pay or mandate that he attend meetings; however, there is a statute that addresses the procedure to vacate a seat or expel a member if it is found he is not doing his official duty. He gave East Chicago as an example. You must follow the procedure that is established. He said the council is the only one that could do it by ordinance establishing a procedure for example requiring a minimum number of meetings to be attended. Councilman Kring noted that he did talk to Councilman Manns to ask him if there was a problem causing him to miss the meetings and he told him it was just that he was working or had family obligations.

The Councilman and Mayor said he is put on notice now that the Council is considering taking additional steps.

Councilman Parker noted that at times it makes it hard to have a quorum if one member is always absent. He also observed that he is getting paid, but not performing any work.

Councilwoman Bertha Blue noted that when he is not present, he is not representing his district to bring issues that they have to the board.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Constituent Steve Dodge asked if the City Attorney was going to write an ordinance about the Council seat to declare what an official duty is. The Mayor said no – not as of right now because the Council had not asked him to have the City Attorney do that.

Ron Parker said he, as President of the Council will call Tim Manns and ask him what his intentions are.

Local resident Sherry Cowen voiced her concern about heavy trucks traveling on Henry Drive. She attributed damage on the road to the large trucks. She thinks they should travel down Highway 8 to Virginia Lane or Edgewood Drive instead of traveling on a residential Street.

The Mayor said he would take a look at the situation and see if he can come up with a solution.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #25103 - #25195 inclusive) were presented and approved. Voucher

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer