

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday September 10 2019 in the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Ron Parker, Jeff Berg, William Gustafson, and City Attorney, Autumn Ferch. Councilmember, Bertha Blue 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. Ron Parker made a motion seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - 2020 BUDGET

Mayor Estok opened the public hearing for the 2020 budget. Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston told those present that the budget is available to anyone on Gateway. There was a 3.5% Average Growth Quotient, so that is approximately how much the max levy was raised. The total budget is about \$3,000,000.00. The amount to be raised from taxes is \$1,741,680.00. Copies of the 2020 budget were given prior to the meeting for their review. No questions were raised by residents or the council.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

RE: ORDINANCE 2019-OR4 - STARKE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE AIRPORT ZONING ORDINANCE

Mayor Estok received a letter dated September 4, 2019 from Building and Code Compliance Director, Kenny Pfost. It stated that on September 3, 2019, the Knox Planning Commission approved a recommendation to be sent to the Knox city Council to adopt a Starke County Comprehensive Airport Zoning Ordinance, which regulates and restricts the height of structures and objects of natural growth; regulates the use of land; and mode of construction of structures within noises impacted areas in proximity of the Starke County Airport within the Two-Mile Jurisdiction of the City of Knox; providing an effective date and repealing all ordinances or provisions thereof in conflict herewith.

Jeff Berg made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-OR4 on first reading. William Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston said we are waiting to hear back on several grant applications.

He reported that a letter has been received in his office from the Indiana State Auditor, Tera K. Klutz.

Her office anticipates having the adjusted population figures ready for January 2020. Early estimates of populations adjustment on MVH and cigarette tax distribution could result in an 8% decrease from fiscal year 2019, assuming revenue collections are constant.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Estok passed out a letter from Waste Management stating that recycle fees are being raised again. The City is currently paying \$1,670.67 a month more than what is collected from rate payers. An additional \$2,884.76 will be added. Currently the City makes this up from CEDIT Funds. However, trash and recycling should be self-supporting, just like other utilities. Rates may have to be raised soon.

The Mayor congratulated Chad Dulin, the K-9 officer on placing 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 87 at the K-9 Olympics.

Halloween trick or treating will be Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Pickleball now has permanent nets. Organized play is done on Thursdays and Sundays but will now be available at all times.

The Mayor noted that the City should be able to get started on the Sandy Acres Park Grant in October or November.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #27763 - #27804 and Voucher #27805 - #27873 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer