

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday February 11, 2020 in the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer, Cyndi Kidder; Councilmembers, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, Don Kring, Bill Gustafson, Sherry Cowen and City Attorney, Autumn Ferch.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

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. Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SCEDF CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Mayor Estok and Councilmembers discussed a new amount for our CEDIT distribution for the SCEDF. The Council decided on a flat rate of \$82,000.00. Councilmember Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to approve the amendment to the SCEDF Contract distribution amount. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: STATE OF THE CITY

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1. The City financially is very stable within our total funds, which is evident of the S and P Global Rating of A- for the City.
2. Miscellaneous funds TIFF, CEDIT, and Riverboat have maintained a steady balance over these past 4 years and have been used for most of our projects.
3. Water and WWTP have maintained a healthy balance in the operating funds while we continue to upgrade our systems.
4. The City's assets have grown over the past 4 years.
5. We have used good management practices and will continue to be fiscally responsible for the best interests of the City.

GRANTS – GIFTS

1. Street improvements and additional street extension work received 1,296,529.02 in Community Crossing Grants.
 - \$183,831.34 in 2016
 - \$455,559.61 in 2017
 - \$346,138.07 in 2018
 - \$311,000.00 in 2019
 - 8.7 miles in improvements and construction of 150S – Veterans and Henry Drive.
2. \$223,000 Blight Elimination Grant – Total of 13 homes
3. \$195,500 IHEDA Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grant
4. \$700,000 Wastewater CDBG Grant
5. \$107,500 Sandy Acres DNR Grant
6. \$18,000 IPEP Safety Grant
7. \$3,000 Rural Indiana Performance Fund Grant
8. \$50,000 Message Board Gift
9. \$11,000 Performance Stage Gift
- TOTAL \$ 1,308,000.00

TOTAL FOR GRANTS AND GIFTS - \$ 2,604,529.02

PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our community came together with contractors donating their time to help construct these projects and that has had a huge impact on our citizens.

	COST	VALUE
SPLASH PAD	85,000	180,000
PERFORMANCE STAGE	80,000	170,000
CONCESSION/RESTROOMS	60,000	150,000
TOTAL	\$225,000	\$500,000
NET ASSETS		\$275,000

REVITALIZATION OF THE DOWNTOWN

Streetscape through the downtown includes a decorated crosswalk and the City logo in the center at the intersection of Main and Lake St.

A mural on a brick wall at the same intersection (Serenity Gardens).

The City invested in a vacant building and used it to turn it into a Pop-Up store and has been successful in securing a small business.

We have recently contracted with Ball State University to prepare an urban revitalization plan for the City with the goal of assisting in the continued revitalization of the downtown. With this plan in place we hope to improve historic buildings through sketch and design proposals that will assist property owners in the improvement of their building facades.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Our Parks continue to be the City's largest asset. We plan to continue the improvements and amenities for our parks to make them more enjoyable and accessible to everyone.

Wythogan Park:

- Splash Pad
- Performance Stage
- New Restrooms/Concession Stand to service this area and these projects, all of which were designed to be ADA Compliant.

Future projects on the horizon for Wythogan Park:

- Will include a new ADA compliant restroom with storage attached to our existing maintenance garage.
- Removal of an existing pavilion which will enable us to expand the roadway and parking along the existing drive, while adding lighting and overlay of asphalt for the existing gravel and parking lot.
- Will also add new pavilions to this area which services the Splash Pad and is rented out the most.
- ADA compliant sidewalks will be constructed to connect to these additions.
- A dog park with a security access control will be added to our park as more and more people are using the parks to walk their dogs.
- Wythogan Park is Knox's premier park.

Sandy Acres:

Sandy Acres will be receiving several upgrades made possible through the DNR Grant.

- Asphalt parking and driveway area.
- Sidewalks
- Bathrooms
- Shelter

All of which are designed to be ADA Compliant.

EVENTS

With the new improvements to our park, attendance and the success of our events has improved. Visitors enjoying these events also patronize our local businesses which provides an economic value to our City and helps to showcase our downtown.

These events are beginning to grow and change each year:

Annual Car Show (Concert and Car Show)
 Family Fun Day and Fireworks Show
 4th of July Parade
 Fall Bash (Craft Beers, Music and Food)
 Movies in the Park
 Concerts in the Park
 Peppermint Parade

CLOSING

Over these past 4 years I believe we have made a difference in improving the quality of life in our city and creating a more vibrant place to live, work, and play for everyone.

As we look forward into the next 4 years, we want to maintain the progress we have made and continue to build and improve our hometown atmosphere for our residents, business owners, and visitors.

We see the progress we are making with our downtown area, our park improvements, and the events that grow in attendance each year and all these efforts combined are creating a hallmark community for all of us to enjoy!

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer, Cyndi Kidder reported the PERF Credit for Lilas M. Booth amounts were in for INPRS. Lilas's contribution from 12/1/1988 through 6/30/1993 would have been \$1,409.52 and the City's contribution was \$3,148.48. Lilas has paid her part and the City will pay their portion in the next approval of vouchers on Feb 25, 2020.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennis Estok reported that the Ball State façade survey is completed. Mayor Estok passed out copies to everyone in attendance. Mayor Estok said it looks very promising. A total of 364 responses were received for January 21, 2020 through February 4, 2020.

Mayor Estok also reminded everyone about the importance of rental registration. All owners of rental units must register their rentals with the Building and Code Compliance Director, Kenny Pfost.

Mayor Estok also spoke to the Council about estimates he received for new LED lighting for the Nancy J Dembowski Community Center; \$492.00 for the Executive Room and \$2,552.00 for the Whole Great Room. Mayor Estok asked the Council for a motion to approve the \$492.00 for just the executive room lights to be changed to try them out. Councilmember Ron Parker made a motion, seconded by Sherry Cowen to approve the \$492.00 for new LED lighting. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and NO (0) nays.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember Bill Gustafson wanted to discuss the Girl Scout Cabin and no longer using it as a rental space. Mayor Estok stated "The Girl Scout Cabin will no longer be available for rent after April 30, 2020. The City continuing to maintain the building just isn't feasible anymore. We are losing money every year and the building needs a lot of repairs".

RE: CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Jacque Ryan of the Starke County Leader asked to verify the end date of the rentals of the Girl Scout Cabin. She also asked about the City of Knox Fall Bash Party including a Knox High School Alumni gathering? Mayor Estok said they are working on it. A lot of coordinating will have to be done.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #28576 - #28657 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: _____
 Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer