

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 P.M. CST on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 with the following members present: Dennis Estok, Mayor; Clerk-Treasurer, Cyndi Kidder; Council Members, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, Donald Kring, Sherry Cowen, Bill Gustafson and Autumn Ferch, City Attorney.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Don Kring made a motion to add "Reduction of the City's Work Force". Jeff Berg seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and no (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Council Members prior to the meeting for their review. Jeff Berg made a motion seconded by Sherry Cowen to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: REDUCTION OF WORK FORCE

The Mayor presented to the Council the plan to reduce the work force for the City. The Mayor met with all department heads and devised a plan. A division of workers to cover all departments with split time and other coverage with an on-call person. This will help protect our City employees. The plan will be in effect until April 6, 2020. This motion will carry over if additional orders by the Governor are made to extend the "Stay at Home" directive. A motion was made by Don Kring to approve this plan. Jeff Berg seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The memorandum is an agreement between Starke Memorial Hospital and the Knox Community Center to use the Community Center as an alternate care site in the event of an emergency or an unforeseen disaster where additional space is needed for the public information officer and/or as a media center.

RE: STELLAR CONSULTANT FEE, KNOX COMMITMENT \$12,000

Council Member Bill Gustafson made a motion to approve the consultant firm fee of \$12,000.00 for the Stellar. Jeff Berg seconded that motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITY HALL CHANGE IN BUSINESS HOURS

Mayor Estok presented to the Council a change in City Hall's office hours. Since the Mayor's office and all the County offices close at 4:00 PM, the Clerk-Treasurer's office and City Court's office will change their closing time to 4:00 PM also. Jeff Berg made a motion seconded by Bill Gustafson to approve the closing time at City Hall. Motion passed with (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

Census: The Mayor informed the Council that the City has a very low percentile of completion for the census. It only takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The public needs to remember it is very important for education funds and other funds that help our community. The Census still needs workers, it pays \$18.50 an hour.

Leaf Pick Up: The Mayor will be delaying leaf pick up in the City due to reduction of staff hours until further notice.

8 S Main St: We received a grant of \$2,500.00 from Indiana Landmark. The grant is for hiring an Architect to redesign the front, the interior and the specs on demolition for more than half of the building with the Collapsed roof. Total cost of redesign is \$3,500.00. The City's unsafe building fund will pay the difference of \$1,000.00.

Façade Discussion: The façade sketch and design will be presented on Zoom in City Hall, Thursday March 26, 2020 at 1:00 PM for anyone who wants to attend.

Waste Management: Waste Management will be suspending Bulk pickup as of April 6, 2020. Stickers will not be sold after April 1, 2020. This will not affect garbage or recycling pick up.

Following Governor Directives: Anyone can read up on the Governor's directives by going to the City's website (cityofknox.net), click on Indiana State Department of Health link. Then in the upper right-hand corner click the Governor Holcomb link. Also, on the City's website is the Mayor's executive order.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Council Member Bill Gustafson asked about the placing of the gym floor piece. The Mayor said that community input was varied. The final placement decision will be made soon.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, Voucher #28767 - #28848) 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