

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, May 26, 2020 in the Knox Community Center at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Dennis Estok, Mayor; Clerk-Treasurer, Cyndi Kidder; Council Members, Jeff Berg, Donald Kring, Ron Parker, Bill Gustafson, Sherry Cowen, and City Attorney Autumn Ferch. There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5/12/2020

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

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder informed the Council that City Hall is now open to the public. Hand sanitizer stations are in place at both entrances. Cyndi also told the Council that her office has begun the Budget process for 2021.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

- OCRA grant paperwork deadline is Friday, May 29 by 4:00 PM CST. Paperwork can be turned in at City Hall. As of today, 16 applications have been turned in and their income surveys have been approved. All applications with income survey's will also have to be approved by OCRA. After OCRA approval, the committee can begin approving the businesses applications according to need. Pay vouchers will take 2 to 3 weeks to be issued.
- The Owner-Occupied Rehab housing program will restart when the Governor's stage 5 takes effect July 4. All exterior work has been completed. The interior work can be completed after Stage 5 starts. The City received an extension for the 2nd group of 5 homes due to COVID-19.
- Census - Starke County is ranked 79th out of 92 counties for completion. City of Knox is at 63.4%, ranked 199 of 566 towns/cities. Numbers are low and that is not good. It is very important for all our community funding; we all need to do better at completing the census.
- Rock Wall is coming along well! The painted rocks look good! Phil Ahlenius has donated all the rocks. There is a pile for the public to take home and paint. Please do not take the large natural rocks already placed on the wall. Please no political ads, graffiti, or negative painting. Plants and flowers will be added.
- The asphalt company will be here in a couple weeks to complete paving of designated streets.
- With the Governors executive orders in place, the Mayor's executive order will follow suit. The Knox Community Center is opening for rentals, following strict guidelines set by the Governor's order. The Park is still closed. The Park amenities will be re-evaluated in 1 - 2 weeks. Stage 5 starts July 4, 2020.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Council Member Bill Gustafson asked about Park Shelter rentals. Mayor said not now but Stage 5 starts July 4, social distancing and other guidelines will be in place. He also asked what is so important about the Census. Everyone chimed in with answers from local funding to representative seats.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENT

Jacque Ryan with the Starke County Leader informed the Mayor and Council there is a overgrown tree blocking the stop sign at the corner of Pearl and John Street. Michael Gallenberger with WKVI asked for clarification about OCRA grant approval by KIRPC. The Mayor explained the 1st step is through KIRPC approving income survey. 2nd OCRA approval and then local committee approval of amounts awarded to businesses.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, Voucher #29055 - #29097) 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