

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, April 27, 2021 in the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder; Council Members, Jeff Berg, Bill Gustafson, Don Kring, and Sherry Cowen. Ron Parker and City Attorney Autumn Ferch were absent.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES 4/13/21

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 Don Kring to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 1ST PUBLIC HEARING BLIGHT CLEARANCE PROJECT

Mayor Estok opened the 1st Public Hearing. Edwin Buswell informed the Council and Public about the Project and its cost being around \$152,000.00. The Blight Clearance Grant is \$137,972.00 plus the City’s 10% grant match. A second Public Hearing will be held closer to the start of the project.

RE: SURF BROADBAND SOLUTIONS

Gene Cruise with Surf Broadband Solutions spoke to the Council about bringing their service to the City of Knox. Their service is fiber optic lines which have many possibilities like phone, internet and tv services. They currently service our hospital and the City of Laporte. He would like permission to do a study survey to see if the citizens of Knox would be interested in the services they have to offer. Don Kring made a motion approving the survey to be completed. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #2021-OR2 – AMENDING ORDINANCE #1074 REVISING START TIME FOR THE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance #2021-OR2 to change the start time of the Council Meetings.

ORDINANCE NO 2021 – OR 2
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE # 1074
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF KNOX, INDIANA,
TO REVISE THE TIME FOR COMMENCING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Knox has the authority to adopt ordinances and appropriate tax monies received by the city and to perform other necessary and desirable legislative functions (IC 36-4-6),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, STARKE COUNTY, STATE OF INDIANA:

SECTION A. That Section 2-59 (c) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Knox, Indiana, is hereby amended to read as follows:
(c) The regular meeting date and time for the Common Council shall be at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

ADOPTED, PASSED AND ORDAINED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, this 27th day of April 2021.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Jeff Berg, Council President

Don Kring, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Bill Gustafson, Council Member

Ron Parker, Council Member

Approved by the Mayor this 27th day of April 2021.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

Jeff Berg made a motion to pass the ordinance, seconded by Bill Gustafson. The motion passed with a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #2021-OR3 – CREATING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND AND AUTHORIZATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance #2021-OR3 to the Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-OR3
ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND
AND AUTHORIZATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, after consultation with the Mayor, the Clerk-Treasurer and the City Attorney and reference to written guidance from the Indiana State Board of Accounts (“ISBOA”) as set forth in State Examiner Directive 2021-1 dated March 18, 2021, has determined that An Ordinance establishing separate fund for assistance to be provided to the county through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”) is necessary and desirable; and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Knox, has determined that acceptance of ARP funds is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Knox; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council. As the chief executive body of the City of Knox, possess authority to adopt an Ordinance establishing an ARP Fund and to authorize an ARP Fund Implementation Plan in compliance with State Examiner Directive 2021-1; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Knox as follows:

1. Establishment of ARP Fund. The ARP Coronavirus Local Recovery Grant Fund is hereby established and assigned Fund Number #180.
2. Administration of the ARP Fund. The Clerk Treasurer of the City of Knox is authorized and directed to oversee the ARP Fund in all respects as is customary and appropriate, including acting as the custodian and auditing agent of the fund.
3. Receipts into the ARP Fund. The ARP Fund shall be a separate and distinct fund from all other City of Knox funds. Therefore, receipts to be accepted into the fund shall be restricted solely to ARP funds received by the City of Knox, Indiana pursuant to Section 9901 of the ARP Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund.
4. Expenditures from the ARP Fund. In compliance with State Examiner Directive 2021-1, all expenditures from the ARP Fund shall be by appropriation and subject to approval of the City of Knox Common Council, and consistent with the terms set forth in Section 9901 of the ARP Act (to be codified as Section 603 (c) of the Social Security Act). All expenditures shall comply with the City of Knox ARP Funds Implementation Plan as authorized below. Expenditures must be for direct application for an appropriate and compliant use and may not be transferred to any other entity or unit. Expenditures from the ARP Fund are limited to the following purposes.
 - (A) To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
 - (B) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county, city, town, or non-entitlement unit of local government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
 - (C) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such county, city, town, or non-entitlement unit of local government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, territory, or Tribal government prior to the emergency; or
 - (D) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
5. ARP Fund Implementation Plan. The Common Council, in concert with the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer and relevant department heads, will direct preparation of an ARP Fund Implementation Plan to detail specific uses of the ARP Fund and ensure full transparency, internal controls over all transactions, separation of funds, documentation of audit trails, appropriate approvals, and other aspects of good internal controls.
6. Non-Reverting Fund. Money remaining in the Fund at the end of the calendar year shall not revert to another fund but shall remain in the ARP Fund as a separate non-reverting fund.
7. Intent and Amendment. This Ordinance is intended to implement the guidance set forth in ISBOA State Directive 2021-1 and is subject to amendment from time to time to comply with any additional directives or guidance, statutory amendment, updated rules or by an order of any court of competent jurisdiction.
8. Effective Upon Passage. This Ordinance is effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, STARKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL 2021.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Jeff Berg, Council President

Don Kring, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Bill Gustafson, Council Member

Ron Parker, Council Member

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

Don Kring made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by Jeff Berg. The motion passed with a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: RESOLUTION #2021-RE2 – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARDA) APPROPRIATION

Mayor Estok presented Resolution #2021-RE2 to the Council.

RESOLUTION #2021-RE2
RESOLUTION REGARDING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) APPROPRIATION

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF KNOX INDIANA
REGARDING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ARP ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, the City Council of Knox, Indiana recognizes the need to stimulate growth and to maintain a sound economy within its corporate limits: and

WHEREAS, the City of Knox, Indiana will engage a community-led process in the planning for the use of the ARPA funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Knox, Indiana that:

1. The City anticipates receiving \$740,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act ARPA allocation and will engage the community in a public planning process to use these funds.

Adopted by the City Council of Knox, Indiana this 27th day of April 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

SIGNATURE: _____
Dennis Estok, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

Don Kring made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by Jeff Berg. The motion passed with a Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO BZA

Council President Jeff Berg nominated Mr. David Metz III to fill the vacancy on the City of Knox Board of Zoning Appeals. David is also a volunteer on the Knox Main Street United. Jeff Berg made a motion approving the appointment, seconded by Sherry Cowen. The motion passed with a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR’S REPORT

1. The City’s Dumpster Days are this weekend Saturday May 1 @ 8AM – 5PM and Sunday May 2 @ 11AM – 5PM in the Wythogan Park at the WWTP.
2. Pickle Ball Classes are Saturday May 8th @ 11AM and Thursday May 13th @ 5PM.
3. City Wide yard sale is May 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Rachel Oesterreich oversees the maps. 1st come/1st serve for the use of the moose parking lot.
4. Rieth-Riley is here paving streets. The Parkway Drive is done from Heaton Street to Bridge Street.
5. Friday July 2 in the evening is the band “Magic Bus”.
6. July 3 is the Fun Day in the Park with Fireworks. The 2nd round of donation forms has been sent out.
7. Thinking about a paid position for an event coordinator for the City.

RE: CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Melinda Antell with Waste Management spoke to the Council about their services provided to the City and how they would like to continue providing the services with a new contract starting August 1, 2021.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, Voucher #30479 - #30560) 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