

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 2021

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 9:30 AM CST, with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok, Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder; Board Members Steve Dodge and Jim Collins and City Attorney Autumn Ferch.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Steve Dodge made a motion to add the update at 401 W Bender Street to the agenda. Jim Collins seconded the amendment. Motion passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 5/26/2021

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting for their review. Steve Dodge made a motion, seconded by Jim Collins to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING 7/01/21

Minutes of the special meeting were also mailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting for their review. Steve Dodge made a motion, seconded by Jim Collins to approve the special minutes as presented. Motion passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Harold Smith asked for the Board's approval for a new hire to the City's Police Department. Chief Smith's recommendation for this position is Nick Brown. Steve Dodge made a motion approving the hiring of the new 1st class officer. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins. The motion passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 401 W BENDER STREET UPDATE

On June 29, 2021, Ken Pfof, Building and Code Compliance Director, issued an order to vacate, remove and repair. They were given 30 days to make the property livable. They began working on it immediately and are making an effort. An additional order to repair was given, it gives a better explanation of what must be done. They have limited funds but making a good effort. Steven Dodge made a motion to give them 30 more days and they must appear at the next Board of Public Works Meeting. Jim Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING 401 E LAKE STREET

Mayor Dennis Estok opened the public hearing. Building and Code Compliance Director Ken Pfof informed the Board that code enforcement issues with this property go back as far as 2018. This is the third Public Hearing and owners have never appeared. A letter from the owner was dropped off at City Hall. A discussion was held and the next steps in this process were discussed. Steve Dodge made a motion to access the \$5,000.00 Civil Penalty and move forward with the unsafe building/public nuisance enforcement, and the owners have 30 days to comply. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed with a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. Mayor Estok closed the Public Hearing.

RE: 204 W BENDER STREET – UPDATE

Property Owner had garage knocked down on a random weekend and has not cleaned it up within the time required. The City of Knox Street Department cleaned it all up with the help of power equipment. Property owner was invoiced for the dumpster, labor, publishing, and equipment usage. The bill must be paid by August 2 or assessment will be applied.

RE: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Street Superintendent Jeff Borg informed the board that this department had been doing crack sealing on street, brush pickup, weed killing on curbs and have been cleaning up corners for vision reasons.

Chief of Polic Harold Smith informed the Board that Ashley Vandermark has cleared all PERF

77 Fund training/testing and has been training as an officer. Steve VanDerAa went to Resource Officer training in Carmel, Indiana. Chief Smith asked for approval to promote Travis Schieber to the rank of Corporal. Jim Collins made a motion to promote Travis Schieber to the rank of Corporal as of August 1, 2021. Steven Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

Sewer Superintendent Jason Clemons informed the Board his crew has installed new raw pumps, clearing roots, smoke testing sewer lines and surcharging gravity lines. Three companies have been contacted to bid lining projects. CWG will replenish reed beds for \$8,500.00. Steve Dodge made a motion approving the \$8,500.00 needed for reeds. Jim Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. Kevin Faulk will be hauling away approximately 160,000 gallons of liquid sludge. A Swift Grant was applied for to upgrade McGill Street lift station. Also, the John Deere backhoe broke down and must be fixed, the cost for repairs is \$12,500.00. The repair cost will be split 50/50 between sewer and water departments. Steve Dodge made a motion approving the payment for repairing the backhoe, seconded by Jim Collins. The motion passed with a vote of three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

Water Superintendent Tim Lindewald informed the Board that his department put in new taps at 1048 and 1008 Short Drive. We helped fix a leak at the hospital, replaced, and moved service on South Shield, put a 6 inch insert valve at Danker and East Street. We have been flushing hydrants, reading meters, replacing valves, repairing pits. We applied for a grant to help with iron filter replacement, waiting to hear back on that. Pilot holes were drilled at splash pad for shut offs. Mayor Estok added the grants applied for by sewer and water departments plus ARP money will help get repairs done.

RE: CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jeff Houston let the Board know that parking on and over the sidewalks happens quite often on the East side of town. Chief Smith told Mr. Houston that his officers and himself will address that issue. Also, Mr. Houston talked about the community helping mow around fire hydrants.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer