

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, September 13, 2022, in the Knox City Hall at 6:00 P.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder; Council Members Jeff Berg, Bill Gustafson, Ron Parker, Sherry Cowen, Don Kring and City Attorney Autumn Ferch.

RE: AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Don Kring made a motion to add Historical Society Donation to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Ron Parker and passed by Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 8/23/2022

Copies of the minutes were mailed to the Council Members prior to the meeting for their review. Bill Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 BUDGET

Mayor Estok opened the Public Hearing for the 2023 City Budget. There were no public comments. Mayor Estok closed the Public Hearing.

RE: ORDINANCE 2022-OR12 – 1ST READING OF 2023 BUDGET

Jeff Berg made a motion approving the 1st reading of the 2023 Budget. The motion was seconded by Ron Parker and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: RESOLUTION 2022-RE7 – TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

Don Kring made a motion approving the transfer, the motion was seconded by Jeff Berg and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: DISCUSSION OF RAILROAD CROSSING (ALLEY BETWEEN MAIN AND SHIELD)

The Railroad Company would like to remove the alley railroad crossing between Main Street and Shield Street. Per NIPSCO they have an arrangement already in place to keep that crossing open for their use for the power station located near the crossing. Ron Parker made a motion to deny the closing of the crossing, Bill Gustafson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: DISCUSSION ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Estok informed the Council he has spoken twice with USDA Housing Small Community Pilot Program for housing development in communities. At the next meeting the Mayor wants a couple Councilmembers in attendance. Don Kring made a motion to commit to a land purchase for housing and to continue with a discussion with the USDA. Sherry Cowen seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATION

Mayor Estok presented to the Council a letter from Starke County Historical Society requesting a donation for the year 2022. Ron Parker made a motion approving a \$1,000.00 donation, Jeff Berg seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

1. The City received a Master Utility Planning Grant of \$90,000.00. One requirement is we must have a committee.
2. New Pavilion in Wythogan Park to be finished next week due to rain.
3. Closing splash pad within the next two weeks.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Sherry Cowen informed the Council and Mayor that a citizen has concerns about the Fire Emergency Whistle not being heard by Sellers Avenue/500 E. The Mayor will mention it to Fire Chief Ken Pfost. Bill Gustafson informed the Council and Mayor a citizen came to him with concerns about Semi Trucks speeding on Heaton Street. The Mayor will speak to the Chief of Police.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

A short discussion was held with Todd Keen with Keen Construction, they are currently building 3 homes in Hamlet. They would like to purchase more lots on Short Drive. Richard June with Main Street United spoke to the Council and Mayor about the Knoxtober Festival on October 1.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, APV #33092 through #33197) 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: _____
Cynthia Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer