

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in the 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, Sherry Cowen, Ron Parker, Donald Kring and City Attorney Autumn Ferch. There is no amendment to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 04/11/23

Copies of the previous minutes were mailed to the Council prior to the meeting for their review. Don Kring made a motion to approve minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Berg and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SURF INTERNET

Gene Cruise and Debrorah Crawford with Surf Broadband Solutions updated the Council on the fiber internet. They plan on starting construction in mid-June, and it will take six months to complete. They will partner with Kankakee Valley REMC to use some of their fiber. The installation is at no cost to the city. Monthly customer costs will range from \$35.00 a month for 50 megabits to \$85.00 for 1 gigabit. Surf will provide some service as soon as August to the first 400 homes installed.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE RAINY DAY FUND

Mayor Estok opened the public hearing. There were no public questions asked. Mayor Estok closed the public hearing.

RE: ORDINANCE 2023-OR2: APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE RAINY DAY FUND

Mayor Dennis Estok presented Ordinance #2023-OR2 to the Council. Bill Gustafson made a motion approving Ordinance #2023-2. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Sherry Cowen made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance #2023-OR2 for the second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Ron Parker and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Jeff Berg made a motion approving Ordinance #2023-OR2 for the second reading and adoption. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023 OR 2

ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE RAINY DAY FUND

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate money not appropriated in the annual budget for the use of the Rainy Day Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Knox, Starke County, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the fund named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

Fund Name: Rainy Day Fund	Amt Requested	Amt Approved by Fiscal Body
Personal Services:	\$100,000	\$100,000
Capital Outlays	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total Add'l Appropriation for Rainy Day Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Clerk-Treasurer is directed to submit and certify this ordinance and the related proceedings to the Department of Local Government Finance in accordance with IC 6-1.1-18-5.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, STARKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL 2023.

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 25th day of April 2023.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: RESOLUTION #2023-RE3: APPROVING THE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Mayor Estok presented Resolution #2023-RE3 to the Council. Jeff Berg made a motion approving Resolution #2023-RE3. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RESOLUTION 2023 – RE 3

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Knox, Indiana (“City”) desires to purchase approximately 21 acres in the Sunnyside Estates subdivision (the “Property”) pursuant to the Real Estate Purchase Agreement with Southbrook, Inc attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A (the “Agreement”);

WHEREAS, Property will eventually become part of the Redevelopment District to be developed into affordable housing;

WHEREAS, as per IC 36-1-10.5-5, the purchase price is no more than the average of two appraisals received. The purchase price for the Property is One Hundred Seventy Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$170,000) (the “Purchase Price”); and

WHEREAS, the Purchase Price will be paid from the Rainy Day Fund.

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

1. The Agreement is hereby approved.
2. The Mayor, as purchasing agent, is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement.
3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and adoption by the City Council.

Approved and Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Knox, Indiana this 25th day of April 2023,

Common Council of the City of Knox, Indiana

Jeff Berg, Council President

Donald Kring, Council Member

Ron Parker, Council Member

William Gustafson, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Dennis Estok, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: ORDINANCE #2023-OR3: AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-OR14 – AMENDING POLICE DEPARTMENT PAY RATES AND SALARIES

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance \$2023-OR3 to the Council. Mayor Estok also informed the Council upon approval the new pay rates will be effective immediately. Jeff Berg made a motion approving Ordinance #2023-OR3. The motion was seconded by Don Kring and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and NO (0) nays.

Sherry Cowen made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance #2023-OR3 for the second and final reading. The motion was seconded Ron Parker and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

Jeff Berg made a motion to approve Ordinance #2023-OR3 for the second reading and adoption. The motion was seconded by Don Kring and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE # 2023 OR - 3

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE 2022 OR-14 AND AMENDING SALARIES AND PAY RATES OF POLICE OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2023

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. That from and after the first pay day of May 2023, the salary and pay schedule for the City of Knox, Indiana, be fixed as follows:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

	MAXIMUM BI-WEEKLY BASE SALARY	
Chief	\$2770	
Sergeant	\$2,423	
Corporal	\$2327	
Deputy Chief / Investigator / Detective	\$2308	
Patrolman – Resource Officer	\$2231	
1ST Class Patrolman	\$2231	
Probationary Patrolman	\$2000	
Part Time/Policeman (Special)	\$25.00 Per Hour	VARIES
Crossing Guard (2 ½ Hr Day, 180 Days)	\$32.06 Per Day	180 DAYS

A maximum of 8 full-time officers are allowed.

*PERF: All full-time officers of the Police Department, including the Chief of Police, shall receive PERF from either the 77 PERF or Civilian PERF plans. All new officers must be eligible for the 77 PERF Plan.

*OVERTIME: All full-time, non-exempt, officers of the Police Department that work overtime shall follow the 7 (K) Overtime Exemption of the FLSA (14-day tour of duty). The Chief is exempt from overtime.

*HOLIDAY: All full-time officers of the police department shall receive holiday pay as outlined in the Employee Handbook.

*LONGEVITY: All full-time officers shall receive their earned longevity of \$200 per year after one year of service and each year thereafter until they reach \$2,000.00 maximum longevity. Longevity will be paid once a year with the first pay in December.

All other parts of the original Ordinance, 2022 OR – 14, will remain in full effect until and unless amended or replaced by the Common Council of the City of Knox at a later date.

SALARY ORDINANCE, NUMBER 2023 OR - 3, ADOPTED, PASSED AND ORDAINED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, this 25th day of April 2023.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Jeff Berg, Council President

Donald Kring, Council Member

Ron Parker, Council Member

William Gustafson, Council Member

Sherry Cowen, Council Member

Approved by the Mayor this 25th day of April 2023.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cynthia A. Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder informed the Council that her office has received the first email of needed information for the upcoming audit.

RE: MAYOR’S REPORT

- 1. The water department will be flushing hydrants starting next Tuesday, it takes about one week.

RE: COUNCILS ITEMS

Sherry Cowen just wanted to know the dates and times for the dumpster days and hydrant flushing. She also wanted to remind the public that the City is taking applications for the police force.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, APV #34226 - #34331) 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