

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, October 10, 2023, in the City Hall at 6:00 P.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer representative Cheryl Runkle; Council Members Jeff Berg, Bill Gustafson, Sherry Cowen, Donald Kring and City Attorney Autumn Ferch. Council Member Ron Parker was absent.

There was one amendment to the agenda. Mayor Estok added Knox Main Street United, Inc to the agenda. Don Kring made a motion to approve the amendment to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jeff Berg and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 09/26/23

Copies of the previous minutes were mailed to the Council prior to the meeting for their review. Jeff Berg made a motion to approve minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAIN STREET UNITED, INC

Mayor Estok reminded the Council that at the February 9, 2021, Common Council Meeting the Council approved supporting Main Street United with a donation of \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) provided they obtained a 501 (c) status. Richard June showed that they had obtained the 501 (c) so Mayor Estok recommends releasing the \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) in support funds. Jeff Berg made a motion to approve the release of funds. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #2023-OR5 – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 1ST READING

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance #2023-OR5, regarding parking and fees pertaining to recreational vehicles, to the Council. Don Kring made a motion approving the 1st reading of the Zoning Amendment Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #2023-OR6 – 2024 SALARY ORDINANCE 2ND READING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance #2023-OR6 to the Council for second reading and adoption. Jeff Berg made a motion approving the 2nd reading and adoption of the 2024 Salary Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Don Kring and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer representative, Cheryl Runkle, informed the Council that the SBOA Auditors are in the process of finishing the audit.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Mentioned the possible annexation of property for future hotel development.
2. The railroad crossing closure at John Street will be from October 16th through the 20th.
3. City Fall Leaf pickup will begin Monday October 16th.
4. Truck or Treat is on Sunday, October 29th at Wythogan Park from 2-5pm. Approximately twenty-two local businesses will be handing out candy. Sponsored by the Knox Park Department and the Starke County Chamber of Commerce.
5. Trick or Treat in the City of Knox will be Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.
6. Abate costume judging will be held immediately following Trick or Treat at the Knox Community Center. Prizes are awarded by age group and best family or group.
7. SCILL Center leaf raking – Elderly and handicapped residents may call the Mayor's office to be added to the list. Deadline is November 17th and it is limited to 15-20 yards.
8. Peppermint Parade is Saturday, December 2nd. Parade apps going out before October 15th. Applications are also available in the Market or Leader newspapers and online at the City website. Deadline for applications is November 22nd.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilman Kring asked the Mayor if anything could be done about the property East of US 35 just North of the railroad tracks. He said the railing needs to be painted and the area maintained. Mayor Estok said he would check with INDOT since they are the ones that did it in the first place and if they do not act then the City will take care of it.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Dodge voiced his appreciation to Street Superintendent, Jeff Borg, for painting the yellow lines in such a timely manner. Another local citizen asked for clarification on the closure of the John Street railroad crossing and Mayor Estok reiterated that it would be from October 16th through the 20th. Don Kring asked if US 35 railroad crossing had been done yet and the Mayor indicated that he did not think it had been done yet. Richard June spoke about the success of Knoxtober Fest. He said they sold about 800 meals.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, APV #35098 - #35156) 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