

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 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, Sherry Cowen, Donald Kring, and Bill Gustafson, Jamie Gruszczynski and City Attorney Autumn Ferch. There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 04/09/24

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: STARKE COUNTY YOUTH CLUB

Donor Relations Manager Marc Vendl updated the Council on all the youth club events and happenings. The club's 2024 Radiothon is Friday, May 3rd 10 AM – 4 PM CST on local radio WKVI K99.3FM! You can call 574-772-6211 on May 3rd only to donate or make your pledge anytime at www.thescyc.org.

RE: ORDINANCE 2024-OR1 – PROHIBITING THE MAINTAINING OF PORTABLE TRAILER STORAGE CONTAINERS – 2ND READING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Estok presented Ordinance 2024-OR1 to the Council for the 2nd reading and adoption. Jeff Berg made a motion approving the 2nd reading and adoption of Ordinance 2024-OR1. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

ORDINANCE NO: 2024 OR- 1
AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE MAINTAINING OF PORTABLE
TRAILER STORAGE CONTAINERS ON REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF KNOX, STATE OF INDIANA

Recitals

WHEREAS, the Common Council for the City of Knox, State of Indiana (the "Council"), is responsible for the performance of various functions for the City of Knox (the "City"); and
WHEREAS, the City has seen an increase in the use of portable trailer storage containers, as that term is further defined in this Ordinance; and
WHEREAS, the City has determined that these portable trailer storage containers present a health and safety hazard to the public, and further exacerbate the problem of squalor within City limits; and
WHEREAS, the City wishes to prohibit the placing, maintenance, and use of portable trailer storage containers within City limits.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council for the City of Knox, Indiana, that the following Ordinance Prohibiting the Maintaining of Portable Trailer Storage Containers on Real Property Within the City of Knox, State of Indiana, is hereby adopted as follows:

Terms

SECTION 1. The Recitals are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Ordinance herewith.

SECTION 2. The term "portable trailer storage containers" as used in this Ordinance, shall mean a storage or shipping container that is outfitted for transportation on a semi-trailer, barge, or train. This term shall be defined liberally and includes any storage container that is outfitted for transportation and not manufactured primarily for use as a permanent residential structure.

SECTION 3. The placing, maintenance, and use of portable trailer storage containers on all real property within City limits is hereby prohibited.

SECTION 4. Violation of this Ordinance shall carry with it a Two Hundred and Fifty Dollar (\$250.00) fine. The appropriate enforcement officer shall have the ability to issue a written warning prior to any citation or penalty, for any first-time offender. An offender shall be given Ten (10) days from the date of the written warning or fine to remediate the offense and remove the portable trailer storage container(s). Following that ten (10) day remediation period, another fine may be issued in an amount up to Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). Each proceeding day following the remediation period shall constitute a new offense and a penalty of up to Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per day that the offense continues.

(a) Within five (5) days following the levy of the first written warning or initial fine, the offender may appeal the enforcement officer's determination to the Board of Public Works, by requesting an appeal, in writing, and delivering that request to the enforcement officer, the Mayor's office, or the office of the Clerk-Treasurer. Any appeal will be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works. Any outstanding fines will be stayed until such time as the hearing takes place.

Effective Date and Repeal of Conflicts

1. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after notice of the adoption shall have been published in a paper as described in Indiana Code § 5-3-1-4.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL 2024.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Jeff Berg, Council President

Don Kring, Councilor

Sherry Cowen, Councilor

Bill Gustafson, Councilor

Jaime Gruszczynski, Councilor

Approved by the Mayor on this 23rd day of April 2024.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: ACCEPTANCE OF PETITIONS FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION

1st Source Bank fna The Hamlet State Bank
P.O. Box 1602 South Bend In 46534
(1620 S US 35 Knox In 46534, Parcel #75-06-26-300-010.000-003 – 1.2420 Acres.)

Jr Weaver LLC
35 S Creasey Ln., Suite 3
Lafayette IN 47905
(1640 S US 35 Knox In 46534, Parcel #75-06-26-300-011.000-003 – 10.09 Acres.)

Mayor Estok presented two Petitions for Voluntary Annexation into the City of Knox. A short Discussion was held. Jeff Berg made a motion to accept the Petitions for Voluntary Annexation. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: RESOLUTION 2024-RE4 – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – STELLAR PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Mayor Estok presented to the Council Resolution 2024-RE4 Steller Interlocal Agreement where the City of Knox has partnered with Starke County, the town of North Judson, and the town of Hamlet to apply for the Stellar Pathways Program. Jeff Berg made a motion approving Resolution 2024-RE4. The motion was seconded by Don Kring and passed by a vote of Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 RE 4
RESOLUTION APPROVING STELLAR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

In accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-7-1 et. Seq., Starke County, City of Knox, Town of North Judson, and Town of Hamlet, all of which entities are located in Starke County, Indiana, enter into this Interlocal Governmental Agreement (the “Agreement”) and agree as follows:

Whereas, The Indiana Stellar Pathways program is a multi-agency partnership designed to recognize smaller communities and regions to assist in community and economic development;

Whereas, through annual designation, the Stellar Pathways program provides resources for transformative quality of place, community and regional improvements by fostering regional collaborative behaviors and investments.

Whereas, the Stellar Pathways Designees have the opportunity to apply for funding and support from various Indiana agencies which funding includes, but is not limited to:

PROGRAM

CDBG Planning	OCRA	\$8,000,000 / \$200,000
Rural Federal Aid Program	INDOT	\$3,000,000
Health & Wellness Program	ISDH	\$75,000
Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)	IHCDA	\$1,500,000 per Community Housing Homebuyers vs. homeDevelopment.org
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	DNR	Bonus Points; 5% to LWCF
Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)	DNR	Bonus Points; 20 to HPF
Indiana Agricultural Grant Program	ISDA	\$100,000 per community towards agricultural initiatives
IN Destination Marketing Package	IDDC	\$50,000 - \$100,000 of marketing in-kind services

Whereas, Starke County, City of Knox, Town of North Judson, and Town of Hamlet (hereinafter referred to individually as a “regional partner” and collectively as “the Regional Team”) have come together as a region to apply for the Stellar Pathways program.

Whereas, the implementation of a successful Stellar Pathways program requires other resources including the sustained commitment of a staff and of the governing bodies of the Regional Team; and

Whereas, the Regional Team members now desire to enter into this Interlocal Governmental Agreement (“Agreement”) which will ensure that the sustained commitment exists to provide the support and structure necessary to successfully apply for and implement the Stellar Pathways program.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Knox that:

1. City of Knox has partnered with Starke County, Town of North Judson, and Town of Hamlet for participation in the Stellar Pathways program creating Starke County Region.
2. Starke County Region has attended a mandatory Stellar Pathways program workshop.
3. If chosen as a Stellar Pathway participant, develop a Strategic Investment Plan with a qualified consulting team.
4. Present the Region’s Strategic Investment Plan to the Stellar Pathways Committee.
5. If chosen as a Stellar Pathways Designee, implement Strategic Investment Plan projects and programs with the use of set-aside funding, bonus points, and annual funding rounds within five years of designation.
6. Attend quarterly meetings during those -years to measure project completion, success, and obstacles.

Approved and Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Knox, Indiana this 23rd day of April 2024,
Common Council of the City of Knox, Indiana

Dennis Estok, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder passed out paperwork to each Councilmember for a virtual seminar. Clerk-Treasurer Kidder informed the Council that if they choose to participate to let her know by Friday April 26th.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

1. 50/50 Sidewalk Program is still open until May 10th.
2. Dumpster Days are this weekend, Saturday 8 – 5 and Sunday 10 – 5.
3. The next leaf pick up is the 1st week of May.
4. The SCEDF has submitted an application to NWI Forum Ready 2 Program for up to 26 million dollars grant to assist with the cost of a new hotel in the City of Knox.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher Docket, APV #36047 - #36104) 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