

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

Knoxville Police Station, 215 N. Hebard St., Knoxville

Monday, September 19, 2016, 2016, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: Acting Mayor Maurer called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 PM. All rose to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Olin, McGovern, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Alderman and Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, Supervisor of Public Works Myers and City Clerk Gruner. Absent: Alderman Naslund.

Public Comments: Peg Bivens and Dr. James Wenstrom, representing the Knoxville Community Fund, presented a check for \$500 to Alderman Eiker for the purpose of planting trees in Central Park to replace some of those lost in the spring storms.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Olin moved** to approve the Minutes of the September 6, 2016 City Council Meeting; Alderman **McGovern seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: Will be covered later on Agenda Items.

Engineer Report: In the Absence of Engineer Cooper, Acting Mayor Maurer reported:

- Acting Mayor Maurer and Engineer Cooper met with the owner of the BP Station on Henderson Road (Intersection of County Highways 9 and 10) to see the effect that widening the Henderson (County Highway 9) will have on the entrance/exit to his business. Engineer Cooper will be talking to IDOT to see if they can accommodate with an entrance/exit on County Road 10.
- Love's was scheduled to start work on the water line earlier but was delayed due to weather conditions. They will begin work on the water line tomorrow (Tuesday, September 20, 2016).
- Work on upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant will begin on September 25, 2016.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly report is in the Package mailed to the Council Members and also in the On-Line Package. No other directly related report. Treasurer Whitney will have a report on the IRA Custodial Accounts for Pensions under New Business.

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City Clerk Report: City Clerk Gruner reported that he has the packages of information for the 2017 Consolidated Election. There are seven (7) elective offices that will be up for election in April, 2017. Filing dates for candidates are included in the instructions.

Payment of City's Bills: Alderman **McGovern moved** to approve payment of the City Bills, as presented; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. **On-line Package – - Who will need/want Tablets – Approval to Buy Tablets:**
 - a. City Clerk Gruner asked the Council Members if they wanted a City-provided Tablet for the City Council Package. Those who want them are Aldermen Olin, McGovern, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker. In the absence of Alderman Naslund, it is assumed that he will also need a tablet.
 - b. City Clerk Gruner asked for authorization to purchase six (6) tablets for those Council Members who need them. Alderman **McGovern moved** to approve the purchase; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
2. **Modify Employee Evaluations Forms:** Acting Mayor Maurer tabled this item. He will have more information on it later.
3. **New Roof for the Newman School Building:** Supervisor of Public Works Myers distributed copies of the bids for the new roof on the Newman School. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept the bid from Gibbs Construction; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
4. **Property at 610 Division Street:**
 - a. Attorney McCoy reported that the property has created a “nuisance”. That and other issues have resulted in liens against the property. Attorney McCoy stated that the liens appear to be uncollectable because the owner has no resources. The owner has subsequently ceded the property to the City with a quit-claim deed. When asked what could be done with the property, Attorney McCoy recommended that it be demolished as soon as possible to prevent liability to the City. Alderman **Myers moved** to have the building demolished; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
 - b. Other properties in the City were also discussed. The property at 207 North Street is going back to Court. Properties on Prairie View and Line Street are being reviewed.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resignation – Alderman Maurer:** Acting Mayor Maurer pointed out his letter of resignation as Alderman of Ward 2 to continue as Acting Mayor. Attorney McCoy remarked that the Acting Mayor should appoint a replacement as Ward 2 Alderman within 60 days. Alderman **Maurer moved** to accept the resignation as Second Ward Alderman; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent

2. **Move IRA Custodial Accounts from First Midwest Bank to Tompkins – Whitney:**
 - a. Treasurer Whitney reported that he held a meeting with employees to discuss the various options for the pension funds. Treasurer Whitney reported on the program available through IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) and concluded that there were more negatives to the program than positives. Treasurer Whitney recommended that the Council direct the Pension payments to Tompkins Bank rather than First Midwest Bank, where it is currently sent and which offers a far smaller interest rate. Alderman **Myers moved** to redirect Pension funds to Tompkins State Bank rather than First Midwest Bank; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
 - b. Treasurer Whitney asked that the Council consider changing the date for approving payment of the Pension funds to follow the Calendar year rather than the City’s fiscal year to be more in line with the IRS taxing calendar.
 - c. Chris Hroziencik of Edward Jones in Galesburg supported Treasurer Whitney’s assertion that the IMRF funds do not seem viable for Knoxville. He said that there are other more beneficial options that employees can pursue.

3. **Report on Planning Commission Items – Gruner:**
 - a. City Clerk Gruner reported that the Planning Commission received the Plat of Survey for the property on North Street, immediately behind the Pioneer Plaza. That survey document was the last item needed for the approval of the subdivision requested by owner Keith Vaughn. The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council approve the subdivision, called “Old Settlers Division”. Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the Subdivision; Alderman **McGovern seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
 - b. City Clerk Gruner reported that the Planning Commission recommends revising the Building Codes for Residential to limit Accessory Buildings to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) square feet, wall height of ten (10) feet and a maximum building height of fifteen (15) feet. After some discussion the City Council concluded that there would have to be a hearing by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and a more clear definition of “Accessory Building”.

4. **ZBA – Special Use Permit – 104 Grove Street – Denied:** The request of a Special Use Permit was for the purpose of displaying an advertising sign, conducting a business and displaying samples of the products on the property. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) recommended that the City Council deny the request as there is no provision for Special Use within the Residential Zone. Alderman **McGovern moved** to accept the ZBA’s denial of the Special Use Permit; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

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5. **Ordinance Amending Liquor Code – McCoy:** Attorney McCoy proposed an Ordinance for the purpose of increasing by one (1) the number of Class B Liquor Licenses in the City. The specific Requestor is Love’s Travel Plaza. There was discussion about what would happen if another party applied for the available license before Love’s got their paperwork in. Attorney McCoy replied that, since the application from Love’s has already been received, they are the first in line for the License and anyone else would have to apply to the Council to have an additional license made available. Alderman **Heller moved** to approve the Ordinance changing the number of Class B Licenses from three (3) to four (4); Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

6. **Request for Signage in Public Park for Knoxville Scenic Drive:** The request was made for signage in the median in Public Square for Scenic Drive. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the signage; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None Given

Mayor’s Report:

- Acting Mayor Maurer reported that there will be a meeting of the Action Team tomorrow (Tuesday, September 20, 2016) at 6:00 PM.
- The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Monday, October 3, 2016.

Future Agenda Items:

- Modify Employee Evaluation Form:
- Define Accessory Building:
- Replace Windows in Old Courthouse:
- Halloween Hours:
- Move Dates for Approving Pension Funding:
- Street Closing for Christmas Parade – Set Date:

Adjourn: At 8:20 PM, Alderman Olin moved to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman Eiker seconded the motion which passed by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk