

**CITY OF KNOXVILLE**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
Knoxville Police Station, 215 N. Hebard St., Knoxville

**Monday, November 7, 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, Naslund, Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, City Clerk Gruner.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Olin moved** to approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2016 City Council Meeting as presented; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Property at 610 Division Street – Taxes Due** (Payment after November 11, but before November 10 is \$886.71): Attorney McCoy recapped the situation that the subject property has been ceded to the City but that there are taxes due on it and there are liens that may amount to \$12,000 or more from other than the County. Attorney McCoy will look into the possibility of having the County waive the taxes. He will also see if he can contact the other lien holders to have them reduce or erase those liens against the property. The buildings on the property constitute a nuisance and are a potential hazard. A number of suggestions were made regarding the disposition of the property. Those possibilities should be discussed after the more immediate issues are resolved. Attorney McCoy listed the immediate concerns:
  - a. Tear down the buildings, including both house and garage. Call Supervisor of Public Works Myers to handle the demolition.
  - b. Contact the County about the tax situation.
  - c. Contact the lien-holders to reduce or erase the outstanding liens.
  - d. If the property is to be sold, advertise for sealed bids.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **ASCAP – Bill for using music at City Events:** City Clerk Gruner proposed not paying the fees to ASCAP for music at sponsored events. During the year 2016 the City did not sponsor any events having music. Knoxville is not planning to do so in the coming year either. After some discussion, Alderman Myers moved to not pay the licensing fees to ASCAP; Alderman Eiker

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seconded the motion which passed with six (6) votes in favor of the motion, one (1) opposed and one (1) vacant.

2. **Police – Part-Time and Scheduling:** Chief of Police Poyner reported that there problems in scheduling for the officers in the Police Department. Some of the Part-Time employees are wither unwilling or unable to serve when needed. Full-time officers have vacation time owed to them and are unable to take their time off because of the lack of commitment by some of these part-time officers. Chief of Police Poyner wanted to inform the City Council that, unless the Council objects, he would like to ask each of the part-time officers to either commit to working as needed or to submit their resignation. The resignations of those unwilling to commit would allow for the Chief to hire part-time officers who are willing to make the commitment. Chief Poyner said that the actions are necessary to streamline the operation of his department to provide adequate coverage/protection for the community. There were no objections made by members of the Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administrative – :**

- Acting Mayor Maurer asked Treasurer Whitney to address the Council on the subject of his efforts on a retirement program. Treasurer Whitney related information obtained when he and Acting Mayor Maurer met with Nathan White. The subject of the discussion is the features of a 457B Retirement Program. Nathan White would like to present these options to the Council at the next meeting.
- Treasurer Whitney reported that the emergency generator will probably be able to be repaired for as little as \$37. There is still more to be checked but it appears that the problems may not be as sever as originally reported.
- Treasurer Whitney reported that he will NOT be running for re- election as Treasurer but asked for Council Members to look for a replacement in enough time so that he can transfer the information effectively to the new Treasurer.
- Acting Mayor Maurer informed the Council that Mike Mudge is recommending that the City go back with Ameren when the current contract for Street Lighting expires because their proposed rates seem to be more favorable to Knoxville.

**Cemetery – Olin:** Alderman Olin reported that employment for part-time help in the Cemetery has ended for the season.

**Community & Economic Development – McGovern:** Alderman McGovern mentioned that there is a program sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension that will be presented on the subject of Economic Development. Any of the Council Members who wish to attend are encouraged to do so.

**Parks – Eiker:** Alderman Eiker has picked out a tree, an Autumn Maple, to be planted in the Central Park near the gazebo, at a suitable time. The cost will be a little more than he had anticipated.

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**Police – Myers:** None

**Sanitation – Naslund:** Alderman Naslund reported that Supervisor of Public Works Myers has selected a truck to replace the one that was experiencing numerous maintenance problems. The cost is expected to be in the range of \$105,000. The old truck will be disposed of.

**Streets – Heller:** None

**Water/Sewer – Mahar:** Repairs have been made to the Lift Pump located near the McDonalds. While most of the repair work is completed, some sink holes have developed and need to be filled.

**Mayor’s Report:**

- Tourism Associate Vickie Mundwiler will be having knee surgery later this year. President of Knox County Historic Sites Peg Bivens has lined up volunteers to handle the Historic Sites during Mundwiler’s recovery. Acting Mayor Maurer suggested that the volunteers be paid an amount to approximate the wages that would have been paid to Mundwiler.
- The Action Team met on October 10, 2016. They are preparing an events calendar for the coming year. They are also planning for a “sidewalk survey” to determine which sidewalks are in need of repair/replacement. The Action Team envisions a “Walking Community”. In the ensuing discussion an Alderman asked about how the cost of repairs would be funded.
- Acting Mayor Maurer told the Council that he would like to take up the Tax Levies earlier than we had done last year. He asked the Council Members to be prepared to begin discussions of the Tax Levies at the next (November 21, 2016) City Council Meeting. Attorney McCoy said that he would draft a Tax Levy Ordinance for that meeting.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- **457B Retirement Program – Nathan White:**
- **Lift Station and Sewage Treatment Plant Progress Report – Kevan Cooper:**
- **Tax Levy:**

**Adjourn:** At about 8:05, Alderman **Olin moved** to adjourn the meeting; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk