

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

Monday, November 21, 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 Olen, Heller, Mahar, Myers, Naslund and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Engineer Cooper, Chief of Police Poyner and City Clerk Gruner. **Karen Benjamin**, Nominee for Second Ward Alderman was **also present**.

Absent: Alderman McGovern.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. **Nomination of Karen Benjamin** to the unexpired term on the City Council as 2nd Ward Alderman – Acting Mayor Maurer: Acting Mayor Maurer nominated Karen Benjamin as Alderman of the Second Ward. (The position came open when Acting Mayor resigned his position of Second Ward Alderman after being confirmed as Acting Mayor.) Alderman **Naslund moved** to confirm the Nomination of Karen Benjamin as Second Ward Alderman; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes, one (1) Absent and one (1) Vacant.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: Attorney McCoy reported that he had been in contact with the County and the property tax liability for the 610 Division Street property has been removed.

Engineer Report:

- Engineer Cooper reported that the Love's Water Main is 100% complete. The Sewer Plant is 99% complete. The remaining work, seeding for grass, will have to wait until spring. Work on the Lift Station will be delayed until. The current Lift Station is adequate for the present, so there is no rush.

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- **Acting Mayor Maurer stated** that he was asked to have a traffic signal (stop and go lights) installed at the intersection of Main and Broad Streets. He asked Engineer Cooper What would be needed to have such a signal installed. Engineer Cooper said that the City would have to get permission from the State (IDOT) to install the signal but that the State has a number of criteria, including the amount of traffic and if there were a significant number of traffic accidents at the intersection. Engineer Cooper said that he did not believe that any of these criteria would be met in Knoxville.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Whitney's monthly report is included in the Council's package. Treasurer Whitney reported that the Cemetery fund is running a deficit and has been for some time. Currently, he reported, that the deficit is about \$20,000. Attorney McCoy said that he would talk with Treasurer Whitney to discuss possible alternatives.

City Clerk Report – Nomination Petitions:

- City Clerk Gruner reported that he had misinformed the candidates for City Position in the April Municipal Election. City Clerk Gruner had told people who took petitions that they could bring them to the County Clerk. He should have said that the petition have to be returned to him, at City Hall.
- City Clerk Gruner reported that the tablets for the Council Members have been ordered and should be delivered at about the end of the month. The delay was caused because the vendor had to confirm the City's non-taxable status.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- **6 Month Report - Attached:**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Employee Retirement Program – Nathan White/Whitney:** Treasurer Whitney said that he, Acting Mayor Maurer and White had met to discuss the pension system and their questions on it. Mr. White apprised the Council on the flexibility of the 457 Retirement funding options. This particular kind of plan allows for flexibility and allows the City to modify it as time goes by. There is no tax liability to the City for enacting a 457 Plan. Employees have to have "skin in the game" in that they will have to make contributions to the program themselves as well as the City's contribution. There are a variety of ways to schedule "vesting" and these options are made by the City. Treasurer Whitney said that he would prepare a series of scenarios as examples so that the Council has an idea of how to proceed. Treasurer Whitney would like to see the decision made before the next fiscal year begins.

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- **Liability Insurance – Chad Morse:** Mr. Morse reported on the changes in the premiums for the City’s Liability and Workers’ Comp insurance policies. The renewal is scheduled for December 1, 2016. The new premium will be \$85,995, \$57,379 for Property and Liability and \$28,616 for Worker’s Comp.

- **Report of the Planning Commission – Gruner:**
 - a. City Clerk Gruner reported that the Planning Commission had approved of the changes to the Municipal Codes as reflected in proposed Ordinance 2016-20. The proposed Ordinance defines and sets limits on Accessory Buildings.
 - b. A Draft of the Planning Commission Meeting for November 9, 2016 was included in the package of materials for the Council. The items headed Potential Future Agenda Items in those minutes reflect items that were discussed or questions that were asked at the meeting. They were put on the record only for the purpose of a starting point if the items are requested to be on the Agenda in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Medical Absence – Volunteer Museum Worker Agreement:** It is estimated that Tourism Associate Vickie Mundwiler will be taking off for about two months for a medical absence. During her absence, volunteers will be running the Historic Sites. Acting Mayor Maurer suggested that the City pay the volunteers an amount that would be about equal to the amount Tourism Associate Mundwiler would have received had she been working. He Council discussed the problems of liability and potential Workers’ Comp claims. Alderman **Myers moved to donate** that amount to the Historic Sites and let the Historic Sites Board decide how to distribute it; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

2. **Tax Levies Ordinance 2016-21:** The first draft of a proposed Tax Levy was presented to Council Members. There were some questions raised. A request was made to provide a one year (twelve month) report instead of the six-month report that was included in the Council Package. (The quarterly reports are aligned with the fiscal year and the full fiscal year report was issued about aa month after the end of the fiscal year.) Attorney McCoy mentioned that as long as the difference between the requested levy and the actual tax receipts is less than 5%, there is no need for a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Alderman Myers asked that some kind of notification be made to the public even if the Hearing is not required.

3. **New Police Car:** Chief of Police Poyner reported that a Police Department Vehicle was involved in an accident and was badly damaged. Other Police Vehicles are very heavily used and, while the Department has them well maintained, they need to be supplemented. Chief of Police Poyner wants to retain the current Ford Explorer and purchase another 4-Wheel-Drive vehicle. Yemm Ford has one for \$31,975.14. The 4-Wheel-Drive configuration is beginning to be the standard for law enforcement agencies and the vehicle from Yemm carries much of the emergency as standard

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equipment, somewhat reducing the cost to the City. Alderman **Myers moved** to authorize the Chief of Police to purchase the vehicle that he mentioned; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

4. **Close City Hall Friday, November 25:** Billing Specialist Tuthill usually takes a vacation day on the day after Thanksgiving. City Collector Wilt usually works for half of that day and then takes a half-day vacation. In past years there has always been minimal activity on that day. City Collector Wilt will need to take the whole day of Friday, November 25, 2016 as vacation time. All other City Departments will be operating as usual. Alderman **Heller moved** to officially close City Hall on Friday, November 25, 2016; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
5. **Survey Eiker Acres for Trash Pick-up – Naslund:** Alderman Naslund asked if a survey could be taken of residents of Eiker Acres to see if they would be open to the City of Knoxville collecting their trash. Currently a commercial waste company is providing the service. Alderman Naslund said that he spoke to Supervisor of Public Works Myers and was told that it would not be much extra effort/time to pick up the garbage and it could be some additional revenue. The survey would be to see who would sign-up for the service and if there would be enough volume to make it worthwhile. After some discussion and some questions about how to get in touch with the residents of Eiker Acres, the consensus was to do the survey but to report back to the Council for authorization to make the changes within the Sanitation Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks – Eiker: A tree has been planted in the Central Park, east of the gazebo.

Sanitation – Naslund: The new truck has been received but cannot yet be used because the City has not yet received the title. The title will be delivered when the old truck is delivered to the vendor but there is some maintenance that needs to be done on it before they will accept it.

Water – Mahar: A water main was broken on Henderson Street. City Employees worked to get it repaired.

Police – Myers: Clearing the area and pouring the floor for the new bay for the Police Station Garage has been delayed but is scheduled to start in the spring of 2017.

Mayor's Report:

- Acting Mayor Maurer reported that the Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

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- The Economic Development Group wants to schedule their TIF Review soon. Since a twenty-day notice is required before the review can be held, the earliest date for the Review will be January 16, 2017.
- The Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, 2016 beginning at 1:00 PM.

Future Agenda Items:

- **Accessory Buildings – Ordinance 2016-20:**
- **Tax Levies Ordinance 20016-21:**
- **Employee 457 Retirement Program – Scenarios – Whitney:**

Adjourn: At about 9:00 PM, Alderman **Olin moved** to Adjourn the meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with not dissent,

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk