

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
Knoxville Police Station, 215 N. Hebard St., Knoxville
TAX LEVY HEARING
Monday, December 19, 2016, 2016, 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: Acting Mayor Maurer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Olin, Benjamin, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney and City Clerk Gruner.

Public Comments:

- Acting Mayor Maurer introduced the subject. This is NOT a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing because the proposed increases do not meet the criteria set by the State of Illinois. However, the Public Hearing was scheduled because the Council believes that any increases or change to taxing within the city should have public awareness and encourage public input.
- Resident Angela Hillier stated the taxation on her home in Knoxville, saying that it is very high. Several Aldermen mentioned that the School District taxes are almost 50% of the property tax bill and the City's portion is far less. Hillier asked that the Council consider other sources of revenue rather than increasing the property tax.
- Resident Steve Brody also mentioned the taxes already being too high. He asked that the Council consider the taxes in relation to new growth and the potential for increased revenue from those sources. Brody asked why any increases are necessary at all and suggested that the Council "hold the line" against any increases. Acting Mayor Maurer pointed out that the property taxes go into the City's "General Fund" and that this fund has subsidized many of the other departments over the years when they are confronted with greater than expected or unusual expenses.
- Bernard Mates said that he was against the increase to the taxes. Acting Mayor Maurer again stated that the School District gets over 50% (52.7%) of the property tax revenue and the City gets 13.3% of that revenue.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tax Levies Ordinance 2016-21:** Council Members discussed the various objections, primarily in response to the discussions from the public.

Adjourn: At 7:02 PM, the meeting was adjourned with no dissent. All took a short break.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Charlie Gruner, City Clerk

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

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

MINUTES

Call to Order: Acting Mayor Maurer called the meeting to order at about 7:10 PM. All rose to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Olin, Benjamin, Heller, Mahar, and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy and City Clerk Gruner. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Naslund.

Public Comments:

- Leslie Wilt, the Knoxville City Collector, thanked the City Council for the bonus, for closing City Hall on the day following Thanksgiving and for making Flu Shots available. Several of the Council Members also thanked her for her exemplary service to the community.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman Myers moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2016 City Council Meeting; Alderman Eiker seconded the motion which passed by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: None

Engineer Report: In the absence of Engineer Cooper, Acting Mayor Maurer reported that the City of Knoxville is in an "Urban Cluster" and will benefit for an infusion of about \$30,000 for the year. It can only be used for projects on US 150 or County Road 9. Engineer Cooper suggested to Acting Mayor Maurer that the money be allowed to roll over until there is enough in the account to do serious work on those roads.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Whitney reported that he has closed the account for the Dollar General fund. That fund had been used to make the payments for the incentive to locate in Knoxville. Since the incentive agreement has been met, the fund is no longer needed.

City Clerk Report:

- City Clerk Gruner had enclosed a note in the Council Member's Packages that this would be the last paper copy of the Agenda and the Package to be sent. The City's web site has been available since September and will be used for all future Council Related materials. One advantage is that ALL of the materials will also be available to all of the residents of Knoxville, on-line.
- The period for bringing in petitions for office in the April Consolidated Election ended this evening. Each office has at least one candidate running and two wards have more than one person running for Alderman. In one ward a resident is challenging the incumbent. In the other, one is running for a full term and the other is running to fill an unexpired term. Since the ballot was closed this evening there was no time to get the information into the package before this meeting. The list will be available on-line for the next meeting.

Payment of City's Bills: Alderman Olin moved to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman Eiker seconded the motion which passed by voice vote with no dissent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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1. **Last Paper Copy of City Council Package:** This item was included in City Clerk Gruner's report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Tax Levies Ordinance 20016-21:**
 - o Treasurer Whitney asked if the Tort /Liability Insurance Fund could be raised and the other funds not raised at all. The proposed Ordinance is not a take-it or leave-it proposition. Anything can be changed as long as there is an Ordinance passed and submitted to the County before the last Tuesday of December. Alderman **Heller moved** to approve the proposed Tax Levy Ordinance; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **failed to pass**, with two (2) Yes votes, four (4) No votes and two (2) Absent.
 - o Alderman **Benjamin** was called away for an **emergency** at this time.
 - o Upon further discussion, Alderman **Myers moved** to keep the Tax Levy exactly the same as last year without any changes; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with four (4) Yes votes, one (1) No vote and three (3) Absent.
2. **Auxiliary Generator – Fire Department – Charges:** The issue is who is to pay for the repairs to the Auxiliary Generator at the Fire Department. The repair was done by City Employees at a minimal cost (approximately \$100.00). Alderman **Heller moved** to have the City pay for the repairs; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

3. **Liquor Ordinance, Section 4-1-25:** There was a complaint submitted to City Hall about the Ordinance. There are potential issues with enforcement of it and it presents a broader issue. Should there be a general Ordinance regarding signage? What about issues of appearance? What restrictions are wanted/needed for the Historic District? Attorney McCoy recommended that the Ordinance be left in place for now to give time for the Aldermen to think about the desired impact of such an Ordinance. Alderman **Myers moved** to table the issue; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
4. **Report of the Planning Commission – Gruner:** City Clerk Gruner combined the report of the Plan Commission with the next item on the Agenda, the Big Catz BBQ Steel Structure because it was the only item on the Plan Commission Agenda. The drawings attached to the engineering/architectural plans is an either/or condition. Gruner reported that the Plan Commission did not favor the 'fence' drawing but preferred the 'barn wall' configuration. Michelle Moore, representing Big Catz showed photos of the current condition of the smoker equipment and stated that this proposal is to improve the appearance of the facility, hide the smokers from being a distracting view and generally improve the appearance of the property. Gruner said that the wall preferred by the Plan Commission left space on the ends of the structure to allow for ventilation, to remove the smoke from the work area. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the project; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
5. **Big Catz BBQ Steel Structure:** Part of number 4, above, Report on the Planning Commission.
6. **Re-Appointments to Plan Commission:** Acting Mayor Maurer submitted the names of Tim Eagle and Charlie Gruner to be re-appointed to the Plan Commission. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve both nominations; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

As Needed

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Mayor's Report:

- Acting Mayor Maurer distributed a draft of a letter to be sent to residents of Eiker Acres offering trash, recycling and yard waste pick-up. The letter will be sent out on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.
- The Spoon River Power Transmission Project's offer of trees has increased to 149 trees. They are free to the City but the City will be responsible for planting them. There were a number of questions that the Acting Mayor could not answer. Apparently the trees must be planted on public property. He will contact Ameren and see if a representative can attend a future meeting to answer some of the Council's concerns.
- A Service Line Warrantee program is being offered to residents. The company wants the City to enter into a Marketing Agreement with them and to be able to use the City's name and logo as authorizing the company to solicit for the program.
- Attorney McCoy reported that the value on the house at 610 Division Street is in the range of \$12,000 to \$13,000. There are still issues about the liens but the building will have to be torn down whether by the City or an eventual buyer (if the City decides to sell it).
- The next City Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**. New Year's Day falls on Sunday so it will be observed on Monday.

Future Agenda Items:

- **Spoon River Project Trees.**
- **Eiker Acres – Trash Pick-Up Responses:**
- **457-B Retirement Program Proposal – Whitney:**
- **Courthouse Windows:**
- **Service Line Warrantee Program:**

Adjourn: At about 8:30 PM, Alderman **Mahar moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk