

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

Tuesday, January 3, 2017, 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, Benjamin, Mahar, Myers, Naslund and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, City Clerk Gruner. **Absent:** Alderman Heller.

Public Comments:

- **State Representative Don Moffitt**, State Representative for the 74th Representative District, introduced himself and told the Council that he will end his service to the District later this month when the new Legislators are sworn in. Representative Moffitt had been an Alderman in Knoxville many years ago. He distributed copies of the Illinois Handbook of Government, a copy of the Illinois Blue Book and presented Acting Mayor Maurer with an Illinois State Flag and a certificate showing that it had been flown over the State Capital in Springfield. Representative Moffitt thanked everyone for their support in the years he spent representing the District. Then he introduced his replacement in the Legislature, Dan Swanson.
- **Dan Swanson** introduced himself and his wife who was also present. He will be sworn in to replace Representative Moffitt on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. As Representative Swanson he will have an office phone but meantime he shared his cell phone number with the Council Members.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2016 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with one abstention.

GENERAL REPORTS

City Clerk Gruner reported that he will have a list of all the Candidates for elective office in Knoxville prepared for the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. **457-B Employee Retirement Program – Whitney:** Treasurer Whitney distributed copies of a proposal for a 457-B Retirement Program for Employees. He then asked the Council's feelings on "seeding" the program with a suggested amount of \$500 for each employee. After discussion, the proposal to "seed" the Retirement Fund for those who wish to participate was tabled by mutual consent. The discussion then proceeded to the question of whether part time (PT) employees would be eligible to participate. It was agreed that, for the present, only full time (FT) employees would be eligible. Details of the proposal were discussed. It was agreed that, subject to the rules that become finalized, any employee that is dismissed or resigns **MUST** roll over the funds to another entity so that the City does not have to maintain it. If the plan fund for an individual is withdrawn or rolled over before the five year vesting period, the City's contribution to the fund will be returned to the City. There are still some question that need to be answered by a representative of one of the companies that offers/manages these products, who will be invited to a future meeting. Acting Mayor Maurer will request that City Collector Wilt provide him with definitive information on who and how many FT employees the City

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

has and what their overall wages amount to so that he can run some numbers about potential costs to the City.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Disposal of Equipment:** Knoxville Public Library has recently replaced their tabletop copy machine that was purchased in 2007 with an all-in-one machine that prints/copies/faxes and scans. This machine is nearly 10 years old, and is now old technology, and replacement parts will be difficult to find in the coming years. They value this black and white copier at \$1, and would like to dispose of this outdated equipment by **donating** it to the Knoxville Youth League. Alderman **McGovern moved** to approve the disposal of the copier by donating it to the Knoxville Youth League; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

2. **Liquor Ordinance, Section 4-1-25:** Acting Mayor Maurer pointed out that the current form of the Ordinance may be open to a Constitutional Challenge because the ban on showing prices applies only to sellers of alcohol. Attorney McCoy agreed with the Acting Mayor and added that it could be made to apply in the Historic District only, but then it would also have to include displaying prices of any items for sale in the District. Chief of Police Poyner asked that whatever the Council decides should be clear and consistent. He also affirmed that he would like to insure that the windows to places serving/selling alcohol not be obscured so that the police could always have an unobstructed view of the interior. If changes are proposed to apply to the Historic District, those proposals should also have to be reviewed by the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Attorney McCoy will prepare drafts of two Ordinances, one to allow posting prices for alcohol restrictions on obscuring view into the place of business, the other for restrictions of signage in general in the Historic District.

3. **Courthouse Windows:**
 - a. Alderman Myers reported that the original proposal for replacing the windows in the old Courthouse was \$100,000. At least one other source confirmed that the quoted cost was the estimate of another vendor. Alderman Myers then asked that the Council exempt the project from the normal bidding process because he got a quote from a local (Galesburg) contractor to do the job for a total cost of \$73,150 that would include all the windows in the Courthouse except for two that have not experienced weather damage. Attorney McCoy confirmed that the Council could exempt the project if two-thirds of the Aldermen voted in favor of it. The two-thirds could not include the Acting Mayor. Alderman **Myers moved** to exempt the Window Replacement in the old Courthouse Project from competitive bidding; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes, zero (0) No votes and one (1) Absent.
 - b. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept a bid provided by Glass Specialty of Galesburg to replace the windows in the Old Courthouse with windows manufactured by Pella Corporation, at a cost of \$73,150; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes, zero (0) No votes and one (1) Absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Karen Benjamin: None.

Cemetery – Olin: None.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None.

Parks – Eiker: None.

Police – Myers: None.

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

Sanitation – Naslund: None.

Streets – Heller: None.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: Alderman Mahar reported that there has been a question about the possibility of the City of Knoxville connection the proposed Winery to the City Water System. Initially the Winery did not wish to be annexed into the City but the situation may be changing. At this time the Council should be aware of the potential that the Winery will ask to be annexed and that there are certain advantages to connecting the Winery to the City's Water System.

Mayor's Report:

- City Collector Wilt reported to Acting Mayor Maurer that several employees had contacted City Hall to express their thanks for the bonuses that they received at the end of 2016.
- Letters from the City were sent to 92 residences in Eiker Acres asking if they were interested in having garbage pick-up provided by Knoxville. There have been 22 responses so far to the City's proposal to offer Garbage Collection Service to Eiker Acres. Of those, 20 responded that they would like to participate but some said that they had paid for three months (in advance) for their current service and would wait until the end of it. Only two responded in the negative and they said they would not participate if they could not use the City's burn site. It was suggested that Eiker Acres residents could purchase a Knoxville City Wheel Tax Sticker and then would be entitled to use the burn site. Of those who are willing use the City Service, there would have to be a map prepared that would show those who participate. There may need to be a follow-up letter sent to residents. The Council asked that Supervisor of Public Works Myers be asked to attend the next City Council Meeting to answer some outstanding question of Council Members.
- Ashley Shiwarski, a representative from the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program will be in attendance at the next city council meeting to answer any questions the council members may have regarding the proposed service line warranty program.
- The Tax Levy Ordinance approved at the last City Council Meeting (December 19, 2016) was signed and delivered to the County Clerk's office the following day.
- The deadline has once again passed for a State Budget. The State has no funds and we can expect that there will be no funding available for the City from the State.
- The next meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, January 16, 2017 and begin at 7:00 PM. Prior to that meeting there will be a Cumulative Review Public Hearing regarding the city's TIF District presented by the Economic Development Group. It will start at 6:00PM

Future Agenda Items:

- **457-B Employee Retirement Program – (Not yet Scheduled):**
- **Ameren – Trees:**
- **Utility Service Service Line Warrantee Program:**

Adjourn: At 8:30 PM, Alderman **McGovern 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