

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

Monday, January 16, 2017, 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, Benjamin, Heller, Mahar, Myers, Naslund and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney Cooper, Chief of Police Poyner, Supervisor of Public Works Myers and City Clerk Gruner. **Absent:** Alderman McGovern.

Public Comments: Mr. Bryan Conley owns property on East North Street and has a building permit for a garage. He said that he was prevented from constructing the garage because the ridge height is more than 15 feet, the maximum allowed by the city for Accessory Buildings. The building materials are now exposed to the elements and he is seeking a variance. The height indicated did not specify that it was to the ridge and his experience is that height is always the height of the wall, which is 12 feet.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: Attorney McCoy distributed a draft proposal of a sign ordinance to include regulations regarding types and sizes of signs including for the Historic District. Attorney McCoy will incorporate suggestions into the proposed ordinance for the next meeting.

Engineer Report:

- Love's is scheduled to open their facilities on February 16, 2017. The traffic signal will be made operational at that time.
- The lift station near the McDonalds should be done on or about March 20, 2017.
- The Winery requested that they be connected to the Knoxville City Water and Sewer Systems. They have estimated costs for a six (6) inch water main because they need to have a sprinkler system installed. Engineer Cooper recommended that the line to the Winery property be an eight (8) inch main to accommodate future expansion to the east of the winery to the Knox County Nursing Home. The City would be responsible to pay for the difference in pipe size but the Winery would bear the cost of the cost of the installation to their site. They would then tap into the 'Main' line with a six (6) inch line to the building.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Whitney reported that he had cashed out a CD to pay for the Garbage Truck for the Sanitation Department.

City Clerk Report: The Report will be made under Information Items.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Certification of Ballot – Summary:** City Clerk Gruner reported that a summary of the Certification of Ballot had been presented to the County Clerk. The summary included on the website is the same as the forms sent to the County Clerk except that blank lines have been eliminated. Only Ward 2 has a contested seat. Timothy W. Hurley is running against incumbent Karen R. Benjamin. In Ward 4, Alderman Lester W. Naslund is running for

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the full four year term while Alderman Steven D. Eiker is running for his unexpired term. Margret E Bivens is running for Treasurer to replace James Whitney, who is not seeking re-election. Angela S. Hillier is running for Ward 1 Alderman to replace Frank Olin who is not seeking re-election. City clerk Gruner was asked if they would be clearly listed separately on the ballots. He responded that they will be presented as two separate items to be voted for.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ameren – Trees:** Acting Mayor Maurer reported that he has discussed the trees with a representative from Ameren. IDOT is handling the allocation of the trees. There is no formal agreement with Ameren and there has been no deadline set for receiving and planning the trees, although Ameren would like to be able to get the bill and pay for them as soon as they can. Timanda's will place the order and distribute the trees. Acting Mayor Maurer will also ask that Timanda's get the Council's questions answered. Since the number of trees is expected to be roughly 150, and they must be planted on public property, there is some concern about the City's ability to absorb so many.
2. **Utility Service Line Warrantee Program:** Ashley Shiwarski the representative Utility Service Partners, Inc. was unable to make it to the meeting this evening due to weather related issues. She asked to be rescheduled to the next City Council Meeting (February 6, 2017).
3. **Ordinance 2017-02 – Sign Permit Fee:** Attorney McCoy presented the proposed Ordinance and reminded the Council that, since it involves an increase in fees, they must either have both a first and second reading of the Ordinance before voting on it or have two-thirds of the voting members of the Council approve the change without a second reading. Alderman **Myers moved** to eliminate the second reading and approve the impose a fee of \$25.00 for building permits for signs; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Water Accounts to Write Off:** Acting Mayor Maurer explained the reasoning for the request to write off certain specific water accounts. In one case the property has been ceded to the City. In several other cases the properties are in foreclosure and in all cases there is no likelihood that they can be collected at all and certainly not for less cost than what is owed. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the write-off, totaling \$615.37; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
2. **Employee Retirement Contributions:** Acting Mayor Maurer told the Council that this is specifically for the funding of the current year program and not about the proposal for a future retirement plan. He distributed a list, prepared by City Collector Wilt, of salaries and costs under a variety of potential levels of contributions. Alderman **Myers moved** to fund the Employee /Retirement Program at **6%**; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
3. **Request to use the Police Pistol Range:** Chief of Police Poyner is providing firearm training as a side business on his own time. He has requested that the Council permit him to use the City's pistol range for the required range training. Alderman **Naslund moved** that the Chief be permitted to use the range for training provided that he purchase his own insurance and cover the City for any damages; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
4. **Ideas for a Wheel Tax Sticker for the upcoming year:** Several options were discussed. There was discussion on whether or not to feature various businesses on the sticker but that became a problem of supporting/advertising a specific business at a time thereby excluding all the others. Alderman **Benjamin moved** to feature the Knox County Nursing Home; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

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5. **Commence offering garbage collection services to Eiker Acre Residents:** Positive responses have come from 22 of the 92 residents of Eiker Acres. Supervisor of Public Works Myers was asked about how the pickups would be scheduled. He said that picking up recycling would be on Tuesday, Garbage on Wednesday and Yard Waste would be on Friday. Residents of Eiker Acres would have to come into City Hall to sign-up for the service. A package will have to be prepared that will tell them the pick-up schedule, the billing schedule and any other requirements. They would then be offered a wheel tax sticker for \$10.00 that would entitle them to use the tree dump. Supervisor of Public Works Myers said that he could be ready to implement the pick-ups on the first Monday of March, 2017. Alderman **Naslund moved** to offer the Sanitation Services as agreed in the Council, stated above; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

6. **Ordinance 2017-03 – Allowing Liquor Prices to be Advertised:** Attorney McCoy repeated his concern that the current Ordinance may be found unconstitutional on First Amendment grounds because it discriminates against one specific kind of business since there are no such restrictions on other kinds of businesses. The revision to the Ordinance simply removes the sentence restricting the prices on the signs. Alderman **Naslund moved** to approve Ordinance 2017-03; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Sanitation:** Alderman Naslund reported that the “new” truck is in and in use.
- **Water:**
 - Alderman Mahar reported that a valve on the electrical panel needs attention.
 - We will need to determine the costs of painting two water towers.
 - The Water Department needs an internet connection. The current connection is unreliable.

Mayor’s Report:

- Rock River Energy reported that the City saved \$1,370 on energy usage last year. They will present gas contracts for renewal at the next meeting.
- The next City Council Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 6, 2017.

Future Agenda Items:

- **Proposed Sign Ordinance, 2017-xx:**
- **Utility Service Line Warrantee Program:**
- **Rock River Energy – Gas Contracts Renewal:**
- **TIF Boundaries:**
- **St. Patrick’s Day Parade – March 12, 2017:**

Adjourn: At about 8:30 PM, Alderman **Naslund 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