

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

Monday, February 6, 2017, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: At 7:00 PM, Acting Mayor Maurer called the meeting to order. 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 McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner and Water Department Supervisor Johnson. **Absent:** Alderman McGovern.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Eiker moved** to accept the Minutes of the January 16, 2017 City Council Meeting as presented; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Summary of the Certification of Ballot Report will remain in the “Package” on the website for information only. The Summary contains each office and the candidate(s) running, without comment or endorsement.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Proposed Sign Ordinance, 2017-xx:** There were no questions from Council Members and no suggestions for changes to the draft document presented by Attorney McCoy. The next steps are to schedule a meeting of the Plan Commission and another with the Zoning Board of Appeals before coming back to the City Council.
2. **Utility Service Line Warrantee Program:** Ashley Shiwarski of Utility Service Partners, Inc. outlined the range of products from her company. They are a series of insurance products designed to protect homeowners from damage to various plumbing line failures. The specific coverages are the external water line from the resident’s home to the City Service Line; the external sewer line from the resident’s home to the City Sewer Line and in-house plumbing. She explained that each product is a separate unit and does not require that any of the others be purchased by the home-owner. Shiwarski said that Utility Service Partners, Inc. does periodic mailings to solicit residents and does no door-to-door sales. The company offers the City \$0.50 per policy per month as reimbursement for the use of the City’s logo/letterhead on their mailings. This can be used by the City in any way. Asked if that money can be used to reduce the cost of the product to the residents, Shiwarski said that it could be used that way. Treasurer Whitney commented that there is enough money in the funds that the City does not need the additional revenue and that he felt there is no reason that the money should not be sent back to the Homeowners. Alderman **Myers moved** to permit Utility Service Partners, Inc. to use the City Letterhead in their solicitations to Knoxville Residents; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent. Alderman **Heller moved** to have the \$0.50 per policy per month remitted to the residents; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

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3. **Rock River Energy – Gas Contracts Renewal:** After a brief review of the options, Alderman **Myers moved** to stay with the Vanguard contract for gas service to the city; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
4. **Ordinance 2017-04 - TIF Boundaries Amendment:** This Ordinance is to correct the map of the TIF District that had erroneously included certain parts of the County Fair Ground that are outside of the City Limits. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve Ordinance 2017-04; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Temporary Closure – St. Patrick’s Day Parade – Sunday, March 12, 2017:** Alderman **Naslund moved** to approve the Resolution, 2017-01, for the temporary closure of Main Street for the St. Patrick’s Day and the request to IDOT; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
2. **Century Link – Install additional Equipment along Broad Street – Darrell Schmidt:** Engineer Darrell Schmidt representing Century Link gave an informational presentation to explain what the company is doing with providing for service to rural customers. The City of Knoxville will not be directly impacted by the improvements to the service from Century Link but their workers will be doing work at or near the Knoxville Water Tower at Broad Street and Broad Avenue.
3. **2017 – 2018 Wheel Tax Sticker Proposals:** Two proposals for the Wheel Tax Stickers were presented in the on-line City Council Package; City Clerk Gruner also had the proposed designs in paper form to show the Council Members; Alderman **Heller moved** to accept the sticker that displayed “50 Years of Excellent Care”; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent. After the vote was taken, City Clerk Gruner commented that his sister-in-law had been in the Knox County Nursing Home for a period of several months and had been so well cared for that she moved to the Courtyard of Knoxville because she now needs far less direct care.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: None

Cemetery – Olin: A mower was repaired at the cost of \$1,500. It was restored to like-new condition at substantially less than the cost of a new mower.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None

Parks – Eiker: None

Police – Myers: None

Sanitation – Naslund: None

Streets – Heller: None

Water/Sewer – Mahar: Alderman Mahar met with Acting Mayor Maurer and Water Department Supervisor Johnson to discuss the replacement of an altitude water valve. Only 30% of the current valve’s capacity is being used and it should be replaced with a smaller valve.

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Mayor's Report:

1. The current projection is that Love's will open on about February 16, 2017. There will be a formal Grand Opening Ceremony and Formal Ribbon Cutting on February 17, 2017 at 1:00 PM.
2. Acting Mayor Maurer will be sending a letter to the owners of both the BP and Mobil Gas Stations that they do not qualify for video gaming under current Illinois Statutes. They have no pouring license and cannot be deemed a Truck Stop.
3. A call was received from a resident about cats roaming loose in the neighborhood. There was a discussion about the situation that seems to be a problem throughout the City. Acting Mayor Maurer will request an All-Call be made to residents reminding them that there are leash and licensing ordinances.
4. After talking to a representative from Ameren, the number of trees that the City is able to accept was reduced to 15. Acting Mayor Maurer wants to know what species of trees are wanted and where they should be planted.
5. The Action Team is meeting on Tuesday evening, February 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Old Courthouse.
6. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will meet on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.
7. The next meeting of the City Council will be Monday, February 20, 2017. Mark Randolph will be here to speak about 708 Mental Health Board Referendum.
8. Sign-up for garbage service for Eiker Acres is progressing. When the City begins picking up the garbage, it is expected that more people will sign up. Chief of Police Poyner mentioned that there needs to be some way of identifying each home that participates.
9. Alderman Benjamin asked if Council Members will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. There was some discussion on the subject but no direct decision was made.
10. Acting Mayor Maurer turned the rest of the Mayor's Report portion of the meeting over to Treasurer Whitney who presented information about the proposed employee retirement program.

Future Agenda Items:

1. Replace Altitude Water Valve and Electrical Control Panel for the Water Department.
2. The proposal for changes to Sign Ordinances will be forwarded to the Plan Commission and to the ZBA for review and input.

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