

# CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## Regular Council Meeting

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

Monday, February 20, 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, and Naslund; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Neil Smith (Representing Bruner, Cooper & Zuck), Chief of Police Poyner, Supervisor of the Water Department Johnson and City Clerk Gruner. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Eiker.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2017 City Council Meeting. As presented; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

### GENERAL REPORTS

**Attorney Report:** Attorney McCoy distributed two draft versions of a proposed Sign Ordinance. The drafts should be forwarded to the Planning Commission and to the Zoning Board of Appeals for their input prior to coming back to the City Council.

**Engineer Report:**

- Mr. Neil Smith is filling in for Mr. Kevan Cooper this evening.
- The County will be reviewing the MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) and getting back to us.
- The Lift Station located near the McDonald's will need to go out for bid. It should take 6 to 8 weeks to manufacture the components and additional time to install.
- Completion of the upgrades to the Waste Treatment Plant will resume once the weather breaks
- Bruner, Cooper & Zuck is looking into the exterior condition of the City Water Towers.
- The Water Towers need washing, mildew treatment and some exterior repair.

**Treasurer's Report:** None

**City Clerk Report:** Correction on #4 of Information Items. The note" (See New Business)" should not be there. The 9-Month Report is included in the on-line package and a hard copy was distributed before the meeting.

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

### INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **708 Mental Health Board Referendum- Mark Rudolph, KCCDD Chief Executive Officer:** Mark Rudolph did a presentation on the crisis in mental health care and programs in Knox County. He pointed out that the State of Illinois cannot be counted on to provide the funding or the services needed to address this issue. Creation of the Mental Health Board will be on the April 4 ballot as a referendum. If passed it will allow more local control and provide for local employment. Mr. Rudolph took questions from the Council Members as well as from members of the public.

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2. **IDOT Approval Street Closing:** City Clerk Gruner pointed out that the letter from IDOT is located in the on-line City Council Package. It is there for information only and no action has to be taken at this time.
3. **ZBA Report:** A copy of the Minutes is located in the on-line package. Acting Mayor Maurer reported on each of the items.
4. **9-Month Report:** The 9-Month Report is included in the on-line package and a hard copy was distributed before the meeting. Acting Mayor Maurer said that he wanted the report to be distributed for the Council Members to see what the costs have been to date.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **The proposal for changes to Sign Ordinances will be forwarded to the Plan Commission and to the ZBA for review and input.**
2. **Retirement – Treasurer Whitney:** Treasurer Whitney wants to retire from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Acting Mayor Maurer thanked Treasurer Whitney for his service on the ZBA and said that he had contributed a lot because of his knowledge of the City, its infrastructure and zoning ordinances. Attorney McCoy said that we should have a formal resignation request submitted to the Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Replace Altitude Water Valve and Electrical Control Panel for the Water Department:** Engineer Smith reported that Gas Voda and G.A. Rich have been working on the problems with the Water Department's Altitude Water Valve and the Control Panel. The Control Panel is obsolete and there are no replacement parts available to service it. The Altitude Water Valve also represents a potential problem if it fails. Discussion of the various options concluded in the potential problems representing an emergency. Alderman **Mahar moved** to assume the situation is an emergency and suspend the need for Bids, since the companies that evaluated the problem are also most familiar with it and with the needed work; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent. Engineer Smith and Water Department Supervisor Johnson will bring complete cost estimates to the Council at the next meeting, on March 6, 2017.
2. **Project Graduation – Madison Johnson & Austin Vannaken:** The students, Madison Johnson and Austin Vannaken presented the purpose of Project Graduation to the Council and asked for the City's help with financing the project. Alderman **Heller moved** to allocate \$20.00 per student to the project; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
3. **Zoning Board of Appeals – Minutes:** The Request for a height variance for the accessory building at 784 S. Market St. is under the maximum height of the Zoning Ordinance, no action needs to be taken on it.
4. **Zoning Variance – Height - 703 E. North St.:** (The Address given should have been 403 E. North Street, not 703.) The ZBA reported that they approved the request for the variance for the additional six (6) inches of height on the building. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept the ZBA's approval of the variance; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

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5. **Zoning Change from R1B to B - 110 Galesburg Rd.:** It was decided that this proposed change should have gone to the Planning Commission before it went to the ZBA. The Council tabled further discussion on the question until the Planning Commission has an opportunity to review it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer Whitney** discussed his proposal for a **457-B Retirement Account** for Full-Time employees. While Council Members were generally supportive of the idea, they asked to see a full version of the proposal before acting on it. Treasurer Whitney said that he would work with a program management firm to prepare the proposal.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Acting Mayor Maurer informed the Council that he has received a new Utility Service Line Warrantee Program Agreement that reflects the Councils will to have the portion of the fee (premium) to reduce that cost to the citizens rather than have it remitted to the City. He will have copies available at the next meeting.
- The City-Wide Yard Sale should be moved to an earlier date than last year to avoid conflicting with other events.
- Spring Clean-up should be scheduled at the next Council Meeting, March 6, 2017. Eiker Acres should be included for those who signed up for the City Garbage Collection Service. Alderman Naslund will speak to Supervisor of Public Works Myers about it.
- The Ag Club is investigating a grant that would give them the ability to provide additional planters and flowers for the downtown area. They have requested the opportunity to discuss this grant with the City Council at the next Council Meeting.
- The next Action Team Meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM. One of the subjects will be City Sidewalks – to make Knoxville a more “walkable” city.
- The next City Council Meeting will be held on March 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM
- The next Plan Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- **Replace Altitude Water Valve and Electrical Control Panel for the Water Department:**
- **Revised Service Line Agreement to incorporate the changes to reduce the customers' costs rather than remit the \$0.50 per contract per month to the City**
- **Jim Whitney – Retirement from the Zoning Board of Appeals:**
- **City-Wide Yard Sale – Schedule dates:**
- **Spring Clean-up – Schedule dates:**
- **Establish 457-B Employee Retirement Program Accounts:**
- **Ag Club – Grant for planting flowers:**
- **Dispose of old vacuum truck from the Sewer Department:**

**Adjourn:** At about 8:35 PM, Alderman **Olin moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk