

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

Monday, March 6, 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, Heller, Mahar, Myers, Naslund and Eiker; Acting Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Whitney, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, Water Department Supervisor Johnson and City Clerk Gruner.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2017 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

City Clerk Report: City Clerk Gruner reported:

- Under the heading “**Plan Commission**”, under “**Agendas**” the Plan Commission’s ‘Package’ has been added to the website. All of the materials that will be reviewed by the Plan Commission will be available for the Plan Commissioners and for the public. Paper will still be needed to be mailed to Plan Commissioners because there is no wireless connection available in the Old Courthouse where the Plan Commission meets.
- **Online History of Package is not currently available. Are they needed?** City Clerk Gruner pointed out that the Minutes of previous meeting are available on-line for between six months and a year. There is no similar history available for the other documents in the ‘Package’. He asked if such a history is needed. There was no response, either for or against. City Clerk Gruner then asked the Council Members to think about it and report back if there is a need for the history of if the paper files kept at City Hall would suffice.
- **City Clerk Gruner then asked if there is any need for a meeting reminder and Agenda to be mailed to Council Members:** Several Council Members responded that the on-line materials were supposed to save costs on postage and copying. They indicated that they did not want the reminders mailed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Replace Altitude Water Valve and Electrical Control Panel for the Water Department – Cost Estimates:** Water Department Supervisor Johnson reported that he

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received an estimate of \$69,493.40 for the entire job. There are several parts to the project but the total cost should not exceed the given estimate. The Council had voted, at the last City Council Meeting (February 20, 2017), to regard it as a potential emergency and to waive the bidding process. Alderman **Mahar moved** to accept the estimate and approve the repair work on the valve and the control panel; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) opposing votes.

2. **Jim Whitney – Retirement from the Zoning Board of Appeals:** The formal, notarized resignation from the ZBA Board was received. Alderman **Olin moved** to accept the resignation, Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with one dissenting vote.
3. **Establish 457-B Employee Retirement Program Accounts:** Treasurer Whitney presented a brief update and asked if the Council is interested in setting up the 457-B Retirement program. Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the establishment of the 457-B for full time employees of the City; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) yes votes and no (0) opposing votes. Alderman **Eiker moved** to pay the \$950 fee to start the program; Alderman **Olin seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) opposing votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **St. Jude 5K Run – July 8, 2017 – Michelle Greene:** Michelle Greene asked for the City Council’s approval to use the same route that was used last year. She said that last year’s event was successful and expressed her appreciation. Alderman **Naslund moved** to approve the 5K run for St. Jude, using the same route and facilities as last year; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
2. **Dispose of old vacuum truck from the Sewer Department – Ordinance 2017-05:** There was little discussion of the item because the truck is not in any condition to be repaired and, according to one member, has not been used in about 20 years. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the disposal of the truck as indicated in the Ordinance; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) opposing votes.
3. **Ag Club – Grant for planting flowers:** Chad Bahnks and Mallory Tolley asked the Council if they would approve the Ag Club’s growing flowers and putting them up in planters around the City Square and the downtown area. Tolley has already applied for the grant and thought it would be a good project for the Ag Club, FFA and potentially 4-H to be involved with. Alderman **McGovern moved** to match the grant money that Tolley is expecting to help with the project; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) yes votes and not (0) opposing votes.

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4. **City-Wide Yard Sale – Schedule dates:** Alderman Myers **moved** to set June 9 and 10, 2017 as the dates for the City wide Yard Sale; Alderman Naslund **seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
5. **Spring Clean-up – Schedule dates:** Alderman Naslund **moved** to set the week beginning April 3, 2017 for the annual Clean-Up week in the City of Knoxville; Alderman Eiker **seconded** the motion which passed which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: None

Cemetery – Olin: None

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: Alderman McGovern reported that his observation of the new Love’s Travel Stop indicates that the business seems to be doing well.

Parks – Eiker: none

Police – Myers: None

Sanitation – Naslund: None

Streets – Heller: Alderman Heller asked the status of the house on Division Street. There had been some issue that delayed the demolition of the house and garage but it seems to have been resolved. Both the house and the garage have to be demolished.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: Alderman Mahar is working together with the Water Department Supervisor to develop a long range plan.

Mayor’s Report:

- A total of fifteen (15) trees will be given by Ameren to the City of Knoxville. Council Members should be thinking of where to put them.
- The Service Line Warrantee company is preparing a set of three letters to be sent to City Residents. There will be NO door-to-door soliciting involved.
- A plaque was presented to Officer Bill Greene in the Knox County Nursing Home for his years of service to the community.
- The first of the new windows has been installed in the Old Courthouse on the second floor. In appearance it is in the same style as the old windows. Acting Mayor Maurer reported that he, City Collector Wilt and City Clerk Gruner inspected the window from the inside. He remarked that the shades on many of the old widows were moving because of the outside wind, but the shade on the new window remained still. The fit is good, the

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outside matches the old windows and inside woodwork is stained to match the interior woodwork.

- The contract for cleaning the historic sites will expire at the end of April. If not renewed it will be done on a month-to-month basis. All of the comments received about the work are positive.
- Acting Mayor Maurer asked if there are any Council Members interested in participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The response was not enough to justify a city vehicle.
- Tim Eagle of the Knox County Fair reported that the ground in parts of the parking lot are excessively wet. He wonders if there is a problem caused by earlier work on the water line. Water Department Supervisor Johnson said that he is aware of the situation and will be looking into it as soon as weather permits. Johnson also mentioned that a resident is reporting that his sump pump has been running constantly since the work on the water line was done. Johnson said that the sump pump outlet is too close to the house and he has asked the home-owner to get an extension to bring the water from the pump further from the house. Now it is just cycling back into the house.
- The next meeting of the City Council will be Monday, March 20, 2017.
- The Plan Commission will meet at the Old Courthouse on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. The Report from Plan Commission will be presented at the next City Council Meeting on the following items:
 - Ordinance Regulating Signs:
 - Application for Zoning Variance – John G Sanburns Western Addition #6:

Future Agenda Items:

- Report from Plan Commission:
 - Ordinance Regulating Signs:
 - Application for Zoning Variance – John G Sanburns Western Addition #6:
- Details of the 457-B Retirement Program:
- Complaints about Comcast: When does Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement expire? Attorney McCoy will look into the terms of the agreement and relevant federal regulations.
- Motor Fuel
- Lift Station Bids:
- Hidden Hills Winery – Water Line Connection

Adjourn: At about 8:00 PM, Alderman **McGovern moved** to Adjourn the meeting; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Charlie Gruner, City Clerk