

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

**Monday, April 17, 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, Engineer Cooper, Chief of Police Poyner and City Clerk Gruner.

**Public Comments:**

- Pradeep Kataria, owner of the BP Station at Exit 51 from Interstate Highway 74, is seeking a pouring license for his business in order to be able to have a video gaming license. He needs the video gaming to be able to stay in business against the competition from the new Love's Travel Stop. Mr. Kataria said that he would have the area secured so that no one under the age of 21 years would be able to enter the gaming facility. He would be interested in only allowing for beer and/or wine without any hard liquor and he wants to be able to serve some kind of fast food as he is doing in another location that he owns. Attorney McCoy said that the City currently has no provision for the kind of facility that Mr. Kataria is looking for and that there would have to be an Ordinance amending the current Municipal Codes referencing Liquor. Council Members discussed the options. The issue will be put on a future Agenda.
- Tom Worden, owner of Big CatZ asked that the City Codes be amended to allow for longer hours for serving liquor on Sundays. The current restrictions mean that some of his customers go elsewhere on Sunday mornings for a "Bloody Mary" because he is unable to serve it until noon, while other jurisdictions allow the sale of alcohol earlier Sunday Mornings.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Myers moved** to approve both the Administrative Committee and the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2017 since all of the Council Members were present for both; Alderman **McGovern seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**Attorney Report:** Attorney McCoy is working on authority for the demolition of the North Street Property. He is also working on simplifying the Building Inspection Ticket form.

**Engineer Report:**

- Engineer Cooper reported that Controls for the Water Plant are on order. The newer control panel will provide more information to the Supervisor of the Water Department. Currently every situation that creates an alarm causes the Supervisor of the Water Department to get up and go to the scene to determine the problem. Some situations may not require immediate attention and he will not have to travel from home; other situations may be able to be handled remotely from his home. Better internet connectivity within the Water Department would help facilitate better monitoring of the controls.
- Parts and Equipment for the Lift Station are on order and should be delivered in June and the work on it can begin at that time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Whitney reported that the highlighting used in the previous report was as light as he could make it. Instead he bolded the print font and used color to make the report easier to read. He pointed out that the arrows on total lines were obscuring some of the numbers and that he would have it corrected on the next report. City Clerk Gruner pointed out that those arrows were only obscuring the some numbers to the right of the decimal point, the cents portion of the amounts and that it is really insignificant to the overall report.

**City Clerk Report:** None

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**Payment of City's Bills:** Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- **Report on Planning Commission – Ordinance 2017-06 Version 3, Regulating Signs:** City Clerk and Planning Commissioner Gruner reported that the Planning Commission approved Version Three of the Ordinance with the following changes: From Sec. 31-3-40 A Strike (1); from Sec 31-3-40, B, Strike (1), (2), (5) and (7). Gruner explained that the Commissioners felt that most or many of the businesses in the Historic District were in violation of those provisions or that the restrictions would make the businesses less competitive with businesses outside of the Historic District. Attorney McCoy said that he has been thinking about simplifying the approval process. Presently, this kind of Ordinance has to go through the Planning Commission, then through the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and finally to the City Council. Changes, such as those recommended by the Planning Commission, then may require that the process start over again, delaying implementation. Acting Mayor Maurer reported that the ZBA would be meeting on Wednesday, April 19, at 7:00 PM at the Old Courthouse Building.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Rezoning Ordinance 2017-07 - John G Sanburn Section - 104 Galesburg Rd. Owners:** Scott & Vicki Howe, PIN 1029432003: Alderman **Myers moved** to approve Ordinance 2017-07; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.
- **Employee Compensation- Maurer:** The initial proposal for employee compensation was to increase the wages by \$0.50 per hour for Department Heads, \$0.40 per hour for Full-Time Employees and \$0.15 for Part-Time Employees. Acting Mayor Maurer said that he had worked with the numbers and found that it would cost the City between \$500 and \$600 a year if the Part-Time wages were to be raised by \$0.25 per hour. Alderman **Eiker moved** to increase the Employee Compensation by \$0.50 per hour for Department Heads, \$0.40 per hour for Full-Time Employees and \$0.25 for Part-Time Employees; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.
- **Water and Sewer Rates Increase – Second Reading:** Acting Mayor Maurer reminded the Council Members that the proposed increase would not be temporary, but permanent. Alderman **Mahar moved** that the Water rates be increased by \$0.20 per thousand gallons per month and Sewer rates also increased by \$0.20 per thousand gallons per month; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.
- **457-B Employee Retirement Plan – Whitney:** Treasurer Whitney asked to have this item tabled until the next meeting so that he can present the full contract and not just the summary.
- **Annual Appointments - Auditor, City Engineer and City Attorney:** Acting Mayor Maurer nominated Ben Burgland of Blucker Kneer and Associates as Auditor, Kevan Cooper of Bruner, Cooper & Zuck as City Engineer and Rob McCoy of Miller, Hall & Triggs as City Attorney. Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the appointments of Ben Burgland of Blucker Kneer as Auditor, Kevan Cooper of Bruner, Cooper & Zuck as City Engineer and Rob McCoy of Miller, Hall & Triggs as City Attorney; Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Reimburse Ag Club for flower pots:** The Ag Club has requested grants to help beautify the City. The City Council had previously voted to match the grants to defray costs involved in the flower pots the Ag Club was purchasing. Since the grants will not be awarded until late in the year and the Ag club has already spent money on the pots.

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Members of the Council will contact the Faculty Advisor for the Ag Club, Mallory Tolley, for information on how much has been expended.

- **Building Administrator Issuing Tickets/Citations:** Acting Mayor Maurer pointed to the design for the Building Administrator's tickets provided in the City Council Package. Attorney McCoy said that the tickets were allowed in two places in the Municipal Codes. He would like to see the Municipal Codes simplified to have the authorization in only one place. Attorney McCoy also suggested that all of the fines be made consistent at \$75 for violations rather than some at \$75 and others at \$50.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement with Knox County Highway Department:** Alderman **McGovern moved** to approve the Knox County intergovernmental agreement to do the oil and chip for designated streets in Knoxville; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes and no (0) dissent.
- **A.B.A.T.E. Proclamation:** Acting Mayor Maurer presented the A.B.A.T.E. Proclamation that appeared in the on-line City Council Package and Proclaimed it!
- **Big CatZ Outdoor Event Request to Obtain or Waive Need for Liquor License – Sunday, May 28, 1:PM to 4:PM:** Tom and Deb Worden were present to answer questions about the proposed event. It will only be for the limited time and day listed above. The event is a motorcycle/car show and will be out-of-doors. Liquor will not be served outside but some of the customers may bring their beverages outside to view the vehicles. If approved, the City will provide a letter for Big CatZ to submit to the State Liquor Commission. Alderman **Heller moved** to approve the request for a special one-time event license on the date and at the time specified in the request; motion was **simultaneously seconded by** Aldermen **Benjamin, Naslund and Eiker** and **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Acting Mayor Maurer asked if there were any Committee Reports.

- **Sanitation:** Alderman **Naslund** that there are about 25 homes on Kreigh Lane that are potential users of the City's Sanitation Service. Acting Mayor Maurer joined with Alderman Naslund in expressing their pride in the work that the Sanitation Department and several other City Workers did for the Clean-up Week effort
- **Sewer and Water:** Alderman **Mahar** mentioned that both the North and South Water Towers need to be cleaned and possibly repainted. He asked that the subject be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- Alderman **Benjamin** asked about school crossing. She said there is a problem with children crossing Main Street. The issue belongs to the School District but the City has partially funded Crossing Guards in the past. Chief of Police Poyner said that there is a rule that students cannot cross a state highway, and Main Street is a State Highway. Chief Poyner was not sure if the rule is a State law or a District 202 rule, but students living north of Main Street may take the school bus if necessary. Chief Poyner was asked if there could be a sign posted for School Crossing. He replied that the City could put up temporary signs but that they would have to be put up in the morning and taken down in the evening.

**Mayor's Report:**

- **Stop sign on West bound truck exit from Love's:** This issue is still unresolved. Acting Mayor Maurer will contact the person the City has been dealing with to see what they are able to do.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** The event went well and Acting Mayor Maurer mentioned and thanked many people who participated in making the event a success.
- **Water on County Fair Ground:** The water does not seem to be subsiding but may even be getting worse. As the weather is improving the Water Department will be looking into the cause and potential remedy.

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- **Backup on City Computers:** OSI has been administering the backups of the City's Computers. This year the amount of space needed for the backups is greater and the cost to the City will be increasing. The City could save a substantial amount by performing the backups in-house. A new server, possible RAID-5 and removable hard drives for off-site backup would cost less than our annual charges from OSI.
- **Illinois Energy Now Program:** The City of Knoxville was audited by program representatives last summer and as a result was provided with energy saving equipment. This equipment was installed by City Employees.
- **Windows in the Old Courthouse:** A question was asked about the replacement windows in the Old Courthouse. Only one window has been replaced to date and the others are currently on order.
- **Grant for Sidewalks:** There was some discussion of resubmitting the request for grant. Since there was already an investment in the grant writing, should we submit it again for the current year? One Council Member remarked that the grant was poorly written and the recommendations for City Improvements had been tried in other cities and then had to be removed.
- **Grant for Bullet-Proof Vests:** Acting Mayor Maurer said that he would send an e-mail to Ange Lee to pursue the grant for Bullet-Proof Vests for the Knoxville Police Department.
- **610 S Division Street:** Debris from the demolished buildings has been removed.

### Future Agenda Items:

- **BP Station/Kataria Request for Pouring License/Gaming License:**
- **Sunday Liquor Sales Restrictions:**
- **Update Municipal Codes to show Building Administrator Tickets, Simplify Authorization reference and consistent fines:**
- **North and South Water Towers – Maintenance:**
- **457-B Employee Retirement Program – Contract:**
- **Resolution on Hiring Temporary Summer Help:**
- **Clean-Up Week -**

**Treasurer Jim Whitney asked to say a few words in closing:** Whitney will not be returning as Treasurer. Peg Bivens has been elected to replace him when he decided not to run for the office again.

- Whitney pointed out the last two Treasurer's Reports were done by Bivens, as he has already worked with her to turn over that responsibility.
- Whitney has served the City in a number of capacities over the years. He said that this has been the very best Council he has worked with in terms of working for the interests of the residents of the City. He complemented the Council for its hard work and dedication. He especially paid tribute to Mayors Bob Johnson and Dennis Maurer for their leadership.
- **Acting Mayor Maurer** added his thanks to Treasurer Whitney for all the years of service and commitment to the City of Knoxville.

**Adjourn:** At about 8:25 PM, Alderman **Myers moved** to Adjourn; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk