

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

Monday, December 4, 2017, 7:00 PM

DRAFT
MINUTES

Call to Order: Mayor Maurer called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All rose to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Hillier, Benjamin, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Mayor Maurer, Attorney McCoy, Engineer Cooper, Chief of Police Poyner and City Clerk Gruner.

Absent: Aldermen McGovern and Naslund; Treasurer Bivens.

Public Comments:

- Eric Mayfield is the proprietor of Mayfield's Backhoe Service. He asked the Council what has to be done in order for him submit bids to be able to work on City Jobs. He asked specifically about tree removal and stump grinding. Mayor Maurer replied that most of the jobs of that nature are below the amount that requires bidding and that the former Supervisor of Public Works would just contract with the people who he was most familiar with. Mayor Maurer will pass Mr. Mayfield's information on to the current Supervisor of Public Works. A number of residents were in attendance to support Mr. Mayfield.

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

GENERAL REPORTS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Street Light Request for Lewis Lane:** Allison Atwater rose to explain the need she sees for a street light on Lewis Lane. Lewis Lane is a short street with no lights on it and she feels that there is a safety issue. She has contacted Ameren who gave her some options and advised her to contact Knoxville City officials to get a light installed. There were several of Ms. Atwater's neighbors who came in support of her proposal. Alderman **Heller moved** to table the subject until more information, including costs, could be gathered; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. Ms. Atwater will get information on her contact with Ameren (name and phone number) to Mayor Maurer.
2. **MFT Appropriation for 2018 Street Dept. Materials:** **Engineer Cooper** reported that there are new rules relating to the use of Motor Fuel Taxes (MFT) and that there will be greater enforcement of these rules than there had been in the past. Documentation has become more complex and he recommends keeping all uses for MFT simple. He is preparing a summary of the changes and will forward it to the Council as soon as it is ready. Engineer Cooper said that the City of Knoxville has been using MFT only for its intended purpose in the past so that the major difference for Knoxville will be in an earlier timeframe for preparing MFT Appropriations. He proposed appropriating \$15,000 of MFT for the remainder of this fiscal year and to prepare the appropriation for the next fiscal year early. Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the proposed appropriation of

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\$15,000 for work on the streets with MFT funds; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

3. **Ordinance 2017-19 Intergovernmental Cooperation Contract with Illinois Risk Management Association:** In order to do business with the Illinois Risk Management Association (i.e. Illinois Municipal League) an intergovernmental agreement must be approved by the City Council; Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Municipal League; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) absent.
4. **2017 Tax Levies Ordinance 2017-20:** There was discussion of the three options presented by Attorney McCoy. Mayor Maurer noted the increase in sales tax revenue that appears to be related to the opening of the Love's Travel Stop. Other members of the Counsel noted that some property values have increased which will also impact the City's share of revenue. Aldermen were reluctant to increase taxes at all, expressing the feeling that the other revenues would cover current allocations. Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve option number one which would leave the levy the same as it was last year, with no increase; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes, one (1) No vote and two (2) Absent.
5. **Lift Station Pump Replacement – Mahar:** Alderman Mahar related the problems with a pump located at the waste treatment plant. The pump itself is in bad condition and has been repaired numerous times but continues to break down. The controls are in need of being completely replaced. Alderman Mahar indicated that the bid for all the needed repairs/replacements would be approximately \$4,400.00. It is approximate because a bid for one of the components may be out of date. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the expenditure and have the needed repairs/replacements made; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
6. **Re-appointments to Plan Commission: John Anderson, Jim Harris – Mayor Maurer:** Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the re-appointments of John Anderson and Jim Harris to the Plan Commission; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
7. **Re-appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals: Mike Howard, Neil Smith – Mayor Maurer:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the re-appointments of Mike Howard and Neil Smith to the Zoning Board of Appeals; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Maurer showed a Thank You card from Tom Myers to the Members of the Council.
- The issue of the handicap parking space on Market Street near the Presbyterian Church needs to have the sidewalk lowered by five inches to accommodate wheel chair access to the sidewalk from the street. That would also require that the sidewalk be sloped on both sides of that ramp to meet it. This option seems to be a very poor solution to the problem. The handicap parking space can still be moved simply by removing the one sign on the street and putting it in another space. It was proposed to install a ramp from the street to the sidewalk further north where the sidewalk is closer to street level. Mayor Maurer will speak with Supervisor of Public Works, Tim Rossell.
- After approving the Liability Insurance Policy with IML, it was found that coverage for Auxiliary Officers would require a training program of 480 hours which would be difficult to schedule and cost prohibitive. This fact was not disclosed when the product was presented to the Council. The cost of the training could easily exceed the savings in premium between IML and ICRMT. Members of the Council expressed their disappointment and wished they had been given more complete information regarding this training requirement. Chief Poyner notified the effected Officers and temporarily suspended using them until the situation is resolved. Mayor Maurer will look into potential alternatives but the Policy became effective on December first.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin:

- Alderman Benjamin asked about an email received by council members from Steve Kline, regarding the formation of a legislative task force reviewing TIF districts. The state funding school districts receive that has TIF districts within them could be adversely affected.
- There is a need to enhance the City’s Sexual Harassment policy. The State of Illinois has passed legislation that requires the current policy be updated no later than early 2018. Attorney McCoy added that the current policy does not meet current standard. He will prepare an Ordinance.

Cemetery – Hillier: Alderman Hillier is working with Sextant George Hurd on costs associated with the Cemetery. The Knoxville City Cemetery has the lowest rates of any cemetery in the area and all cemeteries are suffering financially. Alderman Hillier thinks that Knoxville’s can remain among the lowest in the area but should make an adjustment to defray some of the associated costs.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern:

- In the absence of Alderman McGovern, Mayor Maurer reported that there is an application for TIF funding for the old Goff Building and the old Video Store Building. There was an objection raised because work has begun on both of those buildings without going through the Plan Commission. Since the buildings are within the Historic District this is a violation of City Ordinances. Mayor Maurer told the Council that the application is on the agenda for the Plan Commission for next week (Wednesday, December 13, 2017). The Plan Commission’s review will then be forwarded to the Council for final review.
- Mayor Maurer reported that there is another request for TIF funding from the America’s Best Value Motel. It is scheduled to be before the Plan Commission next month.

Parks – Eiker: Nothing to report.

Police – Myers: Nothing to report.

Sanitation – Naslund: Nothing to report.

Streets – Heller: Nothing to report.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: Alderman Mahar reported that the sewage plant consumes a lot of electricity. He favors looking into using solar power to help reduce the costs of that power.

There were more members of the public present than normally attend City Council Meetings.

Mayor Maurer opened the floor for Public Comments again.

- Several people responded saying that they were present to support Mr. Mayfield’s efforts to be able to bid on city work related to his field.
- Shirley Shores asked if her daughter could use the property that the City recently acquired for her day-care enterprise and let the children plant their own gardens or use it for play. Mayor Maurer informed her that the lot is up for sale through a bidding process. If her daughter can purchase the property she can use it in any (lawful) way that she needs.

Future Agenda Items:

- **Street Lights for Lewis Lane:**

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Adjourn: At about 8:30 PM, Alderman Myers **moved** to Adjourn the meeting: **Several Aldermen seconded** the motion at the same time and the motion **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Charlie Gruner, City Clerk