

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

Monday, January 15, 2018, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

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

Mayor Maurer Noted some changes and corrections to the Agenda. Specifically, a third item was added to the Old Business regarding Resolution 2018-01, for a Street Closing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This item was discussed earlier but the Resolution had not been prepared or voted on. Also, the third item under New Business should read 457(B) and not 451(B). The corrected version of the January 2, 2018 minutes were e-mailed to the Aldermen and put onto the website but after the usual time for completion.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Hillier, Benjamin, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner and City Clerk Gruner. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Naslund.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Aldermen **Hillier and Mahar moved** to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2018 City Council Meeting, **as corrected**; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: None

Engineer Report: Mayor Maurer reported that Engineer Cooper has filed the necessary paperwork for the City of Knoxville to register for the IEPA loan program for remediation of lead waterlines.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bivens reported that she has met with representatives of Tompkins Bank and determined that it is not advantageous to change a Cemetery Fund certificate of deposit (CD) at this time.

City Clerk Report: None

Payment of City's Bills: Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- **Retirement Notification Letter from Investigator Rick Pesci:** A copy of the Retirement Letter from Police Investigator Rick Pesci is included in the City Council Package. The effective date of Retirement is January 14, 2018. This is after the end of his shift on January 13, 2018. Mayor Maurer acknowledged the officer's 22 years of

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

service to the City of Knoxville and commended Police Investigator Pesci for his service. Officer Pesci is assuming a position with the Abingdon Police Department.

- **The following Information Items are contained in the City Council Package on kville.org:**

- **Treasurers January 2018 Report**
- **Bock, Inc Report for December 2017**
- **Water Department Monthly Report for December 2017**
- **Cemetery Report for December 2017**
- **Building Permit Listing for December 2017**
- **St. Patrick's Parade IDOT Permit – March 17, 2018:**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Bid Opening for 207 E. North Street Property:** There were no bids submitted for this property. Mayor Maurer will check with Attorney McCoy about the next course of action.
2. **Planning Commission Recommendation on TIF Requests:** Ghada Co 218 E Main St and 222 E Main St. Mayor Maurer read the specific items agreed to from the Draft Minutes of the Plan Commission held on January 10, 2018. The items are:
 - a. The façade color will be changed to Burnt Auburn, Sherwin Williams HGSW 3042.
 - b. The existing columns will be made round (instead of square) and painted white,
 - c. The exterior lights to be installed will be hanging carriage lights and will be painted a dark or hunter green.

City Clerk and Planning Commissioner Gruner added that the specifications apply to both the building at 218 East Main Street and 222 East Main Street. During the discussion of the TIF funding Aldermen were unwilling to vote for any TIF Funding of the projects until the conditions previously listed by the Planning Commission are met. Mayor Maurer said that he would be asking Mr. Sahyouni for an up-to-date set of cost estimates for the 222 East Main Street project to be reviewed by the Economic Development Group, before bringing it back to the City Council.

3. **Resolution 2018-01 for Street Closure for a St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve Resolution 2018-01, for Street Closing for a St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17, 2018; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

1. **TIF Application – Americas Best Value Inn:** Mr. Patel and his son were present to answer any questions. Mayor Maurer reported that were numerous items in the proposed project that did not qualify for TIF Funding. However, the expense of \$28,908.00 for parking lot excavation, rock and fill and the expense for a new entry door of \$15,126.00 would qualify. For a total of \$44,034.00. A Building Repair grant would cover 75% of that amount, \$33,025.50. Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve the TIF Request; Alderman Myers **seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
2. **City of Knoxville Natural Gas Contract Renewal:** Mayor Maurer referred to an email from Rock River Energy Services that showed consistently lower natural gas rates from Vanguard VUI program than could be had from Ameren for natural gas over the past two years. Alderman **Heller moved** to continue with Vanguard VUI Program for the next twelve months; Alderman Eiker **seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
3. **457 (B) Retirement Plan Proposed Change:** When the 457(b) plan was originally offered by the City “seed” money of \$1,000 was provided to each current full-time employees as an incentive to participate. A 120 day period was in place for all current full-time employees to decide if they want to participate in the 457(b) plan. Towards the end of the 120 day period additional full-time employees were hired by the City but were not eligible until the 120 day period had expired. These recently hired employees would like to take advantage of the 457(b) plan and the incentive money offered earlier. Discussion of new employee’s eligibility for the “seed” money for the 457(b) Plan included a limit of thirty (30) days from the date of employment for new employees to accept the terms of the Plan; a part-time employee who becomes full-time will be considered a “new” employee for purposes of eligibility to the 457 (b) Plan; new employees; a proposal to limit the “seed” money for new employees to \$500. There was some confusion regarding fringe benefits and the 90 day probationary period. Mayor Maurer will get cost information and answers to related questions from City Collector Wilt and report back to the Council.

Mayor’s Report:

- Matt and Sarah Hanson continue to look for a location for their proposed micro-brewery. Mayor Maurer reported that he had told the Plan Commission that there were possible zoning and liquor ordinances that may have to be developed or modified. Current liquor ordinances allow for selling and serving to the public but nothing is mentioned about manufacturing alcoholic products.
- Water Department Supervisor, Mike Johnson has updated the Water Department Contingency Plan for Emergency Preparedness manual.
- Mayor Maurer will be meeting with Chad Morse, Porter Hay Insurance Agency, Chief Ron Poyner and Blain Kurth of the Illinois Municipal League to discuss the Municipal Leagues Liability Insurance as it relates to Auxiliary Police Officers and event volunteers this Wednesday, January 17th.

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

- Wheel Tax Stickers will be coming up soon and a design will be needed for the new stickers.
- The Action Team will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30 PM at First Midwest Bank.
- The next meeting of the Knoxville City Council will be Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: Alderman Benjamin is working on getting bagpipe players for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. She will report back to the Council.

Cemetery – Hillier: No report for the Cemetery but Alderman Hillier praised the Street Department employees for their excellent job of keeping the streets clear during the recent cold and snowy conditions.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None.

Parks – Eiker: None.

Police – Myers: Alderman Myers related to the City Council that Rick request that there not be a retirement party. He also reported that Police Investigator Rick Pesci has requested that he be issued an identification card designating him as retired. That has been fulfilled. Rick also asked for a qualification as a retired police officer so that he can carry a firearm much like a Conceal and Carry classification as a retired police officer. Alderman Myers said that he is not sure that this can be done since Police Investigator Rick Pesci will be working as a Police Officer for the Abingdon Police Department. He also reported that a plaque honoring Police Investigator Rick Pesci has been ordered but not yet received. It will be presented to Police Investigator Pesci at a later City Council Meeting.

Sanitation – Naslund: None

Streets – Heller: No report for Streets but Alderman Heller expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Street Department Employees during the inclement weather.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: Alderman Mahar reported that the sludge truck is back in service after repair work was completed. The replacement pump at the waste treatment plant that had been approved by the City Council at the Dec. 4th meeting has been installed and operational.

Future Agenda Items:

- **457 (B) Retirement Plan Proposed Change:**
- **Wheel Tax Stickers – Design:**

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlie Gruner, City Clerk