

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

**Monday, February 19, 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**.

**Roll Call: Present:** Aldermen Hillier, Heller, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner and Deputy City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen Benjamin, McGovern and Naslund, and City Clerk Gruner. Also in attendance: Kevan Cooper, Jane Eiker, Pete Patel, Roy Collins, Elias Sahyouni, Nathan Erickson, Kaleb Karssen, and three members of the press.

**Public Comments:** Jane Eiker, 500 E Main St, asked that the Council consider allowing her to hold "Praise in the Park" at the Central Park Gazebo, sponsored by Community Bible Church, on the last three Wednesday evenings in July.

**Approval of Minutes:** Aldermen **Hillier moved** to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. The meeting scheduled for February 5, 2018 was cancelled by Mayor Maurer due to inclement weather.

**Presentation for Retired Police Inspector Rick Peci:** Inspector Peci was unable to attend the meeting, so the presentation will be rescheduled.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**Attorney Report:** City Attorney Rob McCoy reported that the demolition of 204 W Main St is on hold due to the owner's request to have additional time to remove items. The new deadline for the owner is March 15.

**Engineer Report:** City Engineer Cooper reported that he will be soon driving the streets with Supervisor of Public Works Rossell to determine which streets need to be part of the oil and chip project later this year. He also stated that the South water tower would be inspected in April.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bivens reported that she opened a new Money Market account at First Mid Illinois Bank for the TIF agreement with Petersen Health Care. She will also need to be moving funds within the TIF account to pay necessary expenses before the property taxes are received in June.

**City Clerk Report:** None

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**Payment of City's Bills:** Alderman Mahar moved to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman Hillier seconded the motion which passed with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

- **The following Information Items are contained in the City Council Package on kville.org:**
  - **Treasurer's January 2018 Report**
  - **Bock, Inc Report for January 2018**
  - **Water Department Monthly Report for January 2018**
  - **Cemetery Report for January 2018**
  - **Building Permit Listing for January 2018**
  - **Police Dept Activity Report for January 2018**
  - **St. Patrick's Parade IDOT Permit – March 17, 2018:**
  - **Officer Tim Miller Resignation**

Mayor Maurer also brought to the Council's attention the 9 month financial report, and suggested they use this tool to prepare for budgeting. He also noted that besides Officer Miller's resignation, Chief Poyner had just received a resignation from Emily Ordaz, the newest full time officer.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Sale of 207 E. North Street Property Options:** Mayor Maurer asked for options for selling this property, as no bids had been received. Attorney McCoy gave three alternatives: 1) put the property out for bid again, with a lower starting price, such as \$5,000.00, 2) have a certified appraisal and sell the property at 80% of that price or more through a realtor, or 3) sell the property by auction. Alderman Myers proposed waiting until April when the weather is favorable, and to post a sign in the yard now letting the public know that the property is for sale and to contact the City for more information. This matter will be tabled until the March 19, 2018 meeting.
2. **TIF Agreement on Goff's Building, 220 E Main St:** Owner Elias Sahyouni has estimates totaling \$99,600.00 to renovate 220 E Main St. Mayor Maurer asked how much the Council wanted to assist Mr. Sahyouni with his project; cap the redevelopment agreement at \$40,000.00 and assist at the rate of 20, 30 or 40%? While Mr. Sahyouni can keep continue working on his project, this subject is tabled until the Economic Development Group can review and come up with an agreement.

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3. **457(b) Retirement Plan Proposed Change and Extension of Benefit:** Mayor Maurer reported that two employees were hired just after the end of the offer to give a signing bonus to employees who joined the retirement program within 120 days. Alderman **Myers moved** to allow Tyler Kirgan and Scott Reynolds to receive the \$1000.00 signing bonus for participating in the retirement program; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent. Mayor Maurer also asked if the City would like to offer seed money to new hires that join the program. Alderman **Myers moved** to give \$500.00 to new employees who join the retirement program at the end of their 90 day probation period. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent. Alderman Myers asked if the employees were now receiving their quarterly retirement statements from the investment company, and Deputy City Clerk Wilt responded that they were.
4. **TIF Request – Market Street Mall:** Mayor Maurer reminded the Council that the original TIF request submitted by Fred Johnson for the Market Street Mall was in 2015. After numerous problems with the building and the contractor, the project is now complete. Mr. Johnson is resubmitting his application and is requesting a grant for \$27,987.93. Alderman **Heller moved** to resurrect the TIF grant for the Market Street Mall. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Project Graduation Request 2018:** Nathan Erickson and Kaleb Karssen, seniors at Knoxville High School, asked the Council for a donation toward Project Graduation, an overnight, substance-free event for graduating seniors to be held on May 11. Alderman **Mahar moved** to donate \$1,640.00 to Project Graduation, which is \$20.00 for each of the current 82 seniors; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
2. **Request for a Class D Liquor License – America’s Best Value Inn:** Roy Collins spoke on behalf of Pete Patel, owner of America’s Best Value Inn. Mr. Collins requested that the City add a Class D Liquor License to its list of available licenses, and then request that the Inn be awarded one of those licenses. The Inn would like to have a bar area in the lobby with the intent to sell beer and wine only, plus maybe package liquor as well. They also would like to sell to hotel residents only, but if the license were awarded, he could not stop outsiders from buying liquor there. If he receives a license, he will also apply to the state for gaming machines. Mayor Maurer stated that the definition of Hotel Motel needs to be changed as the original language in the document may be outdated. City Attorney, Robert McCoy will research modifying the definition. The Council would like to see drawings of the proposed changes to the Inn’s lobby area before making a decision.

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3. **Adult School Crossing Guard:** The City has received an invoice from the school district each year for our share of the cost of crossing guards. While there were formerly two intersections covered before and after school each day, there is only coverage at one intersection once a day now. The school district informed us the amount they will have paid out this year totals \$1443.00. After discussion that this could be an inter-governmental agreement instead of just paying from an invoice each year, Alderman **Heller moved** to pay Knoxville School District \$700.00 towards the school crossing guard expense. **Alderman Eiker** seconded the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent.
4. **Wheel Tax Sticker Theme Suggestions;** Mayor Maurer listed suggestions from the Council for the annual Wheel Tax sticker, including the Old Jail, the Community Bible Church, and Gary Goudie's Shell Station. The consensus was to use Goudie's Shell Station.

### Mayor's Report:

- The Knoxville High School Agriculture teacher Mallory Tolley has asked to see if the City would like the FFA to provide flower pots for downtown again this year.
- There will be bagpipes in the St Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.
- The representatives from the Illinois Municipal League met with department heads on January 17. They will be collecting additional data and taking pictures. They also provided proof of the endorsement concerning the Auxiliary Police.
- The Action Team will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 5:30 PM at First Midwest Bank. They will be finalizing their sidewalk recommendations and are planning to address the Council at the March 5th meeting.
- The next meeting of the Knoxville City Council will be Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Administrative – Benjamin:** None.

**Cemetery – Hillier:** None.

**Community & Economic Development – McGovern:** None.

**Parks – Eiker:** Alderman Eiker is still looking at additional equipment for the skateboard park and James Knox Park.

**Police – Myers:** Alderman Myers reported that we will be down three full time officers. The City is working to hire replacements, and while our benefits package is comparable to other agencies, our starting rate of pay is not. In other matters, Alderman Myers asked about the Knox County Neighbors publication that is being delivered unsolicited at the end of people's driveways. They get in the storm sewers and cause problems. Chief Poyner says that he has complained before to the publisher, the Galesburg Register-Mail. Attorney McCoy will send a letter to the Register-Mail asking them not to leave papers on the right-of-way. Alderman Myers also asked about our liability when patrons of Big Catz BBQ park on the city-owned property just north of the restaurant. Should the City erect a fence to keep cars off?

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**Sanitation – Naslund:** Mayor Maurer reported that the Spring Clean-up will need to be scheduled, possibly the first or second week of April.

**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 there is a sewer problem on North St that will need to be televised.

### Future Agenda Items:

- **207 E North St Property Options**
- **TIF Agreement for Goff's Building, 220 E Main St**
- **Class D Liquor License for America's Best Value Inn**
- **Wheel Tax Sticker – Finalize Design**
- **Dates for Spring Clean-up**

**Adjourn:** At about 8:17 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt, Deputy City Clerk