

# CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## Regular Council Meeting

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

Monday, March 5, 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 Benjamin, Hillier, Heller, Naslund, Mahar, Myers and Eiker; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner and Deputy City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern, and City Clerk Gruner. Also in attendance: Jim Eastwood, Carrie McKillip, Angel Wright, Deb Mastin, Ann Ehler, and two members of the press.

**Public Comments:** none

**Approval of Minutes:** Aldermen **Hillier moved** to approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with one (1) abstention.

**Presentation for Retired Police Inspector Rick Peci:** Mayor Maurer informed the Council that former Officer Peci would not be in attendance to receive his plaque.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**Action Team Sidewalk Plan:** Action Team members Carrie McKillip, Angel Wright, Deb Mastin, and Ann Ehler provided a presentation on sidewalks, which stemmed from the University of IL public opinion survey from 2010 showing that residents were concerned about City sidewalks. The team provided information for a Walkability Plan to improve the community quality of life. They focused on three types of routes: Safe Routes to School, Destination Routes, and Neighborhood Enhancement Routes. The Action Team wanted to be proactive and ask the Council to consider their suggestions, noting that their data could be used in the grant process. An additional suggestion was that a designated Sidewalk Improvement Fund could be started for memorial and other types of donations.

**Annual Spring Cleanup scheduled for the Week of April 9:** This annual event will take place on residents' regular trash days.

### OLD BUSINESS

- 1. TIF Redevelopment Agreements for the Goff's Building, 222 E. Main St:** The Economic Development Group provided three alternatives for awarding a TIF Redevelopment Agreement— assist at the rate of 20%, 30%, or 40% of the eligible costs of \$51,500.00, with a cap of \$40,000.00. Owner Elias Sahyouni has not made his plans for the building made public, so the Council does not know what is actually being redeveloped. Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve the 40% TIF reimbursement for 222 E Main St. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

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2. **Wheel Tax Sticker Design for 2018-2019:** A proof of the proposed Wheel Tax design featuring “The Old Shell Station” (302 E Main St) was presented to the Council. Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the 2018-2019 Wheel Tax sticker featuring The Old Shell Station. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
  
3. **Class D Liquor License Request for America’s Best Value Inn:** Attorney McCoy presented an Ordinance to the Council which changes the Liquor Ordinance with regard to the Class D license, which addresses some of the previous concerns with this class. The definition of “Hotel-motel” was adjusted from fifty (50) rooms to twenty-five (25), plus additional clarification, and additional restrictions were added to the Class D definition, including serving liquor only during the same time that food is served. The Ordinance also changes the amount of available Class D licenses from zero (0) to one (1). It was noted that if the City grants a liquor license to the Inn, owner Pete Patel would then be eligible to apply for gambling machines from the state. Alderman Hillier noted that she had received some negative feedback from citizens about granting a new liquor license. As the Council had just received this proposed ordinance at the meeting, Mayor Maurer suggested tabling the matter for further thought. Alderman **Myers moved** to table the Class D Liquor License request from America’s Best Value Inn. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution 2018-02 – Hiring Full Time Police Officer Barry Petzold:** Police Chief Poyner would like to hire Barry Petzold as a full time police officer. Mr. Petzold is currently a police officer out of state, and will be moving to the area for this job. Alderman **Myers moved** to approved Resolution 2018-02 to hire Barry Petzold, contingent on Mr. Petzold passing the pre-employment drug screen and physical. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
  
2. **Knoxville Fishing Derby:** Jim Eastwood plans to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Knoxville Fishing Derby at James Knox Park on Saturday, May 5 at 1:00 pm. Following last year’s Derby, Mr. Eastwood had approximately \$400.00 in excess funds that he planned to use for future events. To open a bank account for the money, he had to obtain a business license and an EIN number. He said that he realizes that was not the best solution, and he wants to know how to proceed. Attorney McCoy suggested that Mr. Eastwood give the money to the City, who would treat the funds as a donation toward future Derby expenses, similar to fireworks donations. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept the Fishing Derby donation from Jim Eastwood. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. Mr. Eastwood also reported that he does not have much volunteer assistance, and Mayor Maurer suggested that he approach the Action Team. Mr. Eastwood also suggested that the James Knox Park pond be shocked before adding additional fish for the Derby.

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- 3. Praise in the Park Summer Music Series Request:** The request had been made at the February 19 Council meeting to hold this event on the last three Wednesday evenings in July. The group wishes to set up east of the Old Courthouse. As this request is for permission to use a City park, Council approval is not required. However, the general consensus of the Council was one of approval.

### Mayor's Report:

- The Mayor reminded the Council that the end of the fiscal year is approaching on April 30, and that members should give thought to appropriations for the coming year.
- On March 1, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos visited Knoxville Public Library. She donated surplus books from the Library of Congress and also held a public meeting.
- Knoxville Schools Superintendent Wilder contacted the Mayor and has asked if the City has ever considered free or low cost WiFi throughout Knoxville. If so, he said the School District would be interested in partnering with the City.
- The complimentary internet service provided by Comcast for City Hall is expiring at the end of March. The City is getting a bid from the provider Stratus. Alderman Myers suggested Mid-Century as an additional source.
- According to Attorney McCoy, the owner of 204 W. Main St intends to tear down the property himself, so the City may not need to be involved in the demolition process.
- The Planning Commission will meet on March 14 to consider a request for a subdivision of a property that is within 1.5 miles of city limits.
- The next meeting of the Knoxville City Council will be Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Administrative – Benjamin:** None.

**Cemetery – Hillier:** None.

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

**Parks – Eiker:** None

**Police – Myers:** Alderman Myers had no police report, but suggested that the City-owned lot at 207 E. North St. be offered to Habitat for Humanity. Mayor Maurer will contact that agency.

Myers also suggested that the properties that the City owns to the west of the Police Station and to the north of Pioneer Plaza be fenced off and offered as green space to citizens.

**Sanitation – Naslund:** none

**Streets – Heller:** none

**Water/Sewer – Mahar:** Alderman Mahar reported that there are several upcoming projects.

### Future Agenda Items:

- **207 E North St Property Options**
- **Class D Liquor License for America's Best Value Inn**
- **City Hall Internet Service**
- **City-Owned Green Space**

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**Adjourn:** At about 8:40 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt, Deputy City Clerk