

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

Monday, May 7, 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, Eiker, Hillier, Heller, Mahar, and Myers; Mayor Maurer, City Engineer Cooper, Attorney McCoy and Deputy City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Naslund, City Clerk Gruner, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner. Also in attendance: Aaron Buck with MidCentury Communications, resident Steve Buster, ABATE member Shelby Keith and associate, Candy Webb and Tim Workheiser with Stratus Networks, and two members of the press.

Public Comments: none

Approval of Minutes: Aldermen **Eiker moved** to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mayor Maurer noted that a letter of resignation was received from City Clerk Charlie Gruner, effective May 1, 2018. Mr. Gruner also resigned from his position on the Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **City Hall Internet/Phone Service:** Aaron Buck with MidCentury Communications gave the Council information regarding his company and their proposal to provide commercial and residential phone and internet for Knoxville. They could begin business service later this year and would then work on adding residential. They fill the gap on residential that other vendors cannot serve. Residential pricing is for life. Alderman Myers would like to see the City be able to offer residential service to citizens. The City has not heard back from Comcast about when the free internet service to City Hall and the Library will cease, as the original deadline was in March. The City will possibly contract with Comcast for one year to allow time for a company like MidCentury or Stratus to bring in fiber to begin service.
2. **East North Sewer:** City Engineer Kevan Cooper reported that this emergency project was completed, and six spots were repaired, including one small and one large void in the middle of the street. The sewer was blocked, which has been corrected. The gravel needs to settle

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before the street can be oil and chipped. The City worked with the contractors to keep down the cost of the project

3. **Service Line Warranties of America – Request for 2nd Campaign:** Mayor Maurer reported that he had been contacted by Service Line Warranties of America, who would like to start a second campaign. They said that they had 236 residences sign up since the initial campaign one year ago. They have partnered with 5 local contractors within a 40 mile radius. By general consensus, the Council approved a second campaign. Mayor Maurer will contact the company.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Intergovernmental Agreement 2018 Seal Coat – Knox County Highway Dept:** City Engineer Kevan Cooper reported that the IL Dept of Transportation has new rules concerning projects. For the seal coat project, the City pays the County for the work, and the City pays for the rock, oil, and trucking. If the materials costs for entire project exceeds \$25,000.00, under new rules, the project has to be put out for bids. Currently, this project is estimated to cost \$24,700.00. As a cushion, Engineer Cooper proposed taking two sections (North Market St and South Division St) off the list and adding them to the 2019 project to assure that the material costs of the project do not go over the new guidelines. Alderman **Eiker moved** to approve the intergovernmental agreement and amended street plan. Alderman **Hiller seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
2. **Proclamation Motorcycle Awareness Month:** Shelby Keith, Public Relations Coordinator of the Central Illinois ABATE addressed the Council about motorcycle awareness. Mayor Maurer read the Motorcycle Awareness Month Proclamation.
3. **Annual Appointments:** Upon recommendation of the Administrative Committee, Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the following appointments for 2018-2019: Auditor – Ben Burgland of Blucker, Kneer & Associates; City Engineer – Kevan Cooper of Bruner, Cooper, & Zuck; City Attorney -- Robert McCoy of Miller, Hall & Triggs; and Building Administrator - Larry Rigg. Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
4. **Annual Appointments – Library Board:** Upon the recommendation of the Knoxville Public Library Board, Alderman **Myers moved** to approve the reappointments of Terry Mauer, Ann Peck, and David Wilt to the Library Board. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. It was noted that Michelle McClay had resigned from the Library Board, and that they are seeking a replacement.
5. **Resolution 2018-06 Hire Grounds Maintenance Worker Joseph Carle:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to hire Joseph Carle at \$8.50 per hour. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

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6. **Resolution 2018-07 through 2018-39 Employee Wage Increases:** Alderman **Benjamin moved** to approve these resolutions, which reflect the wage increases approved at the April 19, 2018 Council Meeting. Alderman **Heller seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
7. **Report of Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting 4-26-18:** Steve Buster, 807 Swedenburg Rd, requests a variance to build a garage that is 152 sq ft over the 1000 sq ft allowance and has a 1'9" variance in building height. The Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended this variance. Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the variance for a garage at 807 Swedenburg Rd. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) absent. Nathan Gibbs, owner of 302 & 304 Madison St, requests rezoning from R1 Single Family Residence to R2 Single Family, Two Family, and Multiple Family Residence for the purpose of building a two family home. The Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended this rezoning. Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the rezoning of 302 & 304 Madison St from R1 to R2. Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) absent.
8. **Ordinance Review – Keeping Poultry within City Limits:** Alderman Eiker had a citizen complaint about a neighbor keeping chickens. The neighbor has since gotten rid of the chickens, but the ordinance is not clear about this matter. Mayor Maurer provided a compilation of all mention of poultry in the current ordinances (Chapters 6, 15,30 and 31). Attorney McCoy will research the matter and present clarification options from other communities, including starting with a definition of livestock. The Mayor also noted that some residents are known to keep beehives in town, as well.
9. **Stratus Networks Seeks Permission to Bore under South Line St:** Tim Workheiser with Stratus Networks reported that they will be boring to lay fiber from near the northwest corner of Line and Main Streets down along East Main St (US Hwy 150). They already have permission from IDOT to do this on US Hwy 150, but are seeking permission from the City to bore under South Line St. Alderman **Myers moved** to allow boring under South Line St. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
10. **Piecemakers Quilt Guild Request for Banner in Central Park:** The Piecemakers Quilt Guild is holding their bi-annual quilt show in Knoxville on August 4-5. They request to place a banner in Central Park from July 21 through Aug 5. Alderman **Hillier moved** to allow the banner placement. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Mayor's Report:

- The next City Council meeting will be on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
- The Planning Commission will meet on May 9 to consider a TIF request for Sit N Knit Yarn Shop, 236 E Main St.

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- The Action Team met on April 24. They are revisiting the Welcome to Knoxville sign project.
- City Wide Yard Sales are scheduled for June 8-9.
- The Fishing Derby was held on May 5. Aldermen Benjamin and Eiker assisted organizer Jim Eastwood and said that there was a good turnout and it was deemed successful.
- A KHS student in the Upward Bound program through Carl Sandburg College will have an internship at City Hall in June and July. This is at no cost to the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: None.

Cemetery – Hillier: Alderman Hillier reported that the cemetery shed had been broken into on April 30 or May 1, and that weed eaters, gas cans, and miscellaneous tools had been stolen. This has been turned in to insurance, and some items have already been replaced.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: Mayor Maurer reported that the Economic Development Group had approved the TIF request for payment for the Market Street Mall, 111 N Market St.

Parks – Eiker: None

Police – Myers: None

Sanitation – Naslund: None

Streets – Heller: None

Water/Sewer – Mahar: None

Future Agenda Items:

- **City Building Internet/Phone Service**
- **Library Windows**

Adjourn: At about 8:11 PM, Alderman **Eiker moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt, Deputy City Clerk