

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

Monday, September 17, 2018, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Benjamin, Eiker, Hillier, Heller, Mahar, Myers, and Naslund; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner, Attorney McCoy, Building Administrator Rigg, and Acting City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Alderman McGovern. Also in attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mudge from Rock River Energy, Mr. Tim Hurley, Mrs. Barb Hurley, Mrs. Debbie Worden, Mr. Shawn Mason, Mr. Tim Eagle, Mr. Piyush Dogra, Mr. Jared Poplett, and three members of the press.

Public Comments: Mr. Shawn Mason, 202 S. Division St., voiced his concerns about the addition of a grocery store that would be more of a liquor store, plus having liquor signage on Main Street.

Approval of Minutes: Aldermen **Benjamin moved** to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with one abstention.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: No report.

Engineer Report: Mayor Maurer reported for Engineer Cooper that the bid opening for painting the North and South water towers would be on September 28, and the results will be available at the October 1, 2018 Council meeting. TIF funds could be used to pay for the project as long as the location is within the TIF district.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bivens presented a paper copy of her monthly report. She noted that the Cemetery Trust CD that matured on September 9 has been reinvested at 2.29% for 21 months.

City Clerk's Report: Acting City Clerk Wilt noted that Ben Burgland of Blucker, Kneer, and Associates would be performing the in-office portion of the annual audit on September 18.

Payment of City Bills: Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

Information Items:

- Mayor Maurer noted that Love's had submitted a plan for a solar farm on the southern portion of their lot on County 9. As a solar farm is not currently permitted, Love's would be seeking a variance. Attorney McCoy provided a draft ordinance addressing solar

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farms, as there is nothing in place currently. As it is a lengthy process to amend the zoning ordinance, it needs to be sent to both the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals so that Building Administrator Rigg will know how to handle future requests. Alderman Myers requested that a Love's representative come to address the Council of their plans for the space.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Grocery Store Liquor License Classification:** Mayor Maurer presented a draft ordinance which defines a grocery store as 70% groceries & sundries and 30% alcohol, and includes adding a GS classification for grocery stores plus making the limit one (1) on GS licenses. This classification would be all package liquor with no pouring license and no gambling machines. Mr. Tim Hurley and Mrs. Debbie Worden expressed concerns over lack of parking for the store. Mr. Dogra addressed the Council and said that he wants to provide what the community wants and plans to use the back door for an entrance. Alderman **Hillier moved** adopt Ordinance 2018-13 Retail Sale of Alcohol at Grocery Stores. Alderman **Naslund seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes, one (1) No vote, and one (1) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Renew Energy Aggregation Contract:** Mike Mudge of Rock River Energy presented bids for the Municipal Aggregation Contract for the February 2019 renewal date. He noted that about half of the households in Knoxville are on the aggregation. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept the proposal from current vendor Dynegy Energy for 3 years at \$0.04967/kwh. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
- 2. Tree Dump Rules:** Supervisor of Public Works Rossell had been approached by a contractor who wanted to use the City tree dump to dispose of out-of-town tree debris. Attorney McCoy presented a draft ordinance change that would allow this and would include a \$60.00 fee. Alderman Myers repeated his previous comments about how too much burning at the dump affects the air quality at the nursing home. No further action was taken.
- 3. Trick or Treat Hours:** Alderman **Myers moved** to set Trick or Treat hours from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

Mayor's Report:

- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
- The next Action Team meeting has been postponed to Tuesday, October 9.

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- Gwen Crawford from the Economic Development Group contacted Mayor Maurer to say that it is time to schedule the Joint Board of Review meeting. By general consensus, the Council would like to hold the meeting before a Council meeting.
- Tax levies – for the last two years the Council has chosen not to increase the levies. If this is going to be the same for this year, the Mayor would like to finalize this well before the December deadline.
- The Mayor said Alderman Myers will be performing the upcoming golf cart inspection at the Knox County Fairgrounds, assisted by Alderman Eiker.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: None.

Cemetery – Hillier: None.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None.

Parks – Eiker: None.

Police – Myers: None.

Sanitation – Naslund: None.

Streets – Heller: None.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: There is a problem with one pump at the lift station.

Future Agenda Items:

- **Solar Farms**

Adjourn: At about 8:05 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Heller seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt, Acting City Clerk