

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

Monday, October 1, 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, Mahar, and Naslund; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Attorney McCoy, Engineer Cooper and Acting City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen Heller, McGovern and Myers; Chief of Police Poyner. Also in attendance: Mr. Dennis Neuhaus, Mr. Kevin McCarthy of Love's, Mr. Aaron Buck of MidCentury Fiber, Mr Jared Poplett, and two members of the press.

Public Comments: Mr. Dennis Neuhaus, 209 N. Timber St, commented on two Galesburg Register-Mail articles recently written about accounts of Knoxville City Council proceedings.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Eiker moved** to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Mayor Maurer reported that Tyler Kirgan, Sanitation Worker, had resigned effective October 2, 2018.
- Kevin McCarthy, Director of Special Projects with Love's Truck Stops, addressed the Council about a proposed solar farm/garden to be placed in the empty green space directly south of the truck stop on Hwy 9. Love's has several solar projects pending for existing and future sites, which will be used for self-consumption to offset operating expenses. There will be 900 modules that will be hidden by a 6 to 8 foot high fence. Love's is asking for a variance for this use of the property. He confirmed that there would be no hotel or restaurant built on the site.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **MidCentury Fiber Contractual Agreement:** Aaron Buck with MidCentury Fiber reported that he and his associates had met with Mayor Maurer and Acting City Clerk Wilt on September 27 to finalize plans to provide internet service for all City owned buildings. They will then set up an informational meeting for businesses in the community to learn about internet and telephone service options. Alderman **Hillier moved** to accept the MidCentury Fiber service agreements to provide internet service to City Hall, the Public Library, the Museum, the Police Department, the Street Department,

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and the Sewer Department. Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent. The Water Department is currently under contract with a different provider, but will contract with MidCentury afterwards.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Painting Water Towers – Bid Award:** Engineer Cooper presented the bid tabulation from the September 28 bid opening for painting and repair of the interior and exterior of the North tower and the exterior of the South water tower with an alternate bid for repainting the South tower Knoxville logo. Following Engineer Cooper's recommendation, Alderman **Mahar moved** to approve the low bid from L & T Painting Inc of Shelby Township, Michigan for the painting and repair of the water towers for \$212,000.00, including the logo on the South Tower. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes and three (3) Absent. The project is set for Spring 2019.
2. **City Garage Addition – Waive Permit Fee:** The addition to the City Garage requires a building permit. If the regular fee is charged, the City would be paying itself for the permit. Alderman **Naslund moved** to waive the permit fee for the addition. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes, and three (3) Absent.
3. **Public Library Maintenance:** Mayor Maurer reported that recent heavy rains exposed leaking on the north brick wall and the small roof over the east door in the alleyway. Armour Roofing inspected the damage. R & C Masonry will be asked to take a look at the wall, and the small roof could be removed and an awning could replace it if necessary. It will be determined if the City or a contractor will remove the roof. Also, Mayor Maurer had discussed the existing problem of the crumbling wall in the alleyway with wall owner Dr. Mike Kotula, who is in the process of removing the damaged portion of the wall.
4. **Resolution 2018-47 – Hiring Sanitation Worker Joe Carle:** Alderman **Naslund moved** to hire Joe Carle at \$13.75 per hour. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes, and three (3) Absent. Mr. Carle does not currently have a CDL license, but has begun steps to obtain one.

Mayor's Report:

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm. A TIF Joint Board of Review meeting will be held at 6:00 pm prior to the Council meeting.
- The Action Team will meet Tuesday, October 9 at 5:30 pm for a field trip to view possible locations for a Welcome to Knoxville sign.
- The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm at the Old Courthouse. They will be discussing a solar farm ordinance and two TIF applications from Pete Alfano for 201 and 205 E Main St.

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- The handicapped ramp by the Presbyterian Church was found to be within handicapped guidelines. The ramp itself will be designated as a no parking space, and the space directly south of the ramp will be designated as a handicapped spot.
- The Mayor is working with Mr. Sahyouni, Mr. Dogra, and the Economic Development Group to see how to rescind the redevelopment agreement Mr. Sahyouni has with the City for 222 E. Main St.
- The Mayor provided information from Bluestem Energy Solutions, who provides free feasibility studies for economic development for alternative energy.
- A thank you note from Knox County Historical Sites Board of Directors was circulated, thanking the City for the exterior Courthouse painting and for the new cement surface behind the Courthouse.

Committee Reports

None.

Adjourn: At 8:02 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt
Acting City Clerk