

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

Monday, November 19, 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; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner, Attorney McCoy, and Acting City Clerk Wilt.

Absent: Aldermen McGovern and Naslund. Also in attendance: Mr. Chad Morse of Porter-Hay Insurance, Mr. Bill Munson, Mr. Jared Poplett, and one member of the press.

Public Comments: Mr. Bill Munson, 100 Willow Ln, requested that the City accept the liability insurance bid from ICRMT.

Approval of Minutes: Aldermen **Hillier moved** to approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2018 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with two abstentions.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: No report.

Engineer Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bivens presented a paper copy of her monthly report.

City Clerk's Report: No report.

Payment of City Bills: Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve payment of the City Bills; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

Information Items: None

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. City Liability Insurance Renewal:** This item was tabled at the November 5, 2018 Council Meeting. The two options are a renewal with Illinois Municipal League (IML) for \$69,606.00, and a policy with Illinois Counties Rick Management Trust (ICRMT) for \$88,935.00. The main difference is that IML will not cover auxiliary police officers who carry firearms without 40 hours annual training, a difficult requirement due to time and money involved. Auxiliary police are primarily used for parades, the Car Cruise, the Scenic Drive, and football games. As an alternative, the County could cover these events as backup. If the Auxiliary officers were not covered for firearms, the Auxiliary may need to be disbanded. Attorney McCoy stated that there would need to be a Truth in Taxation hearing if ICRMT was selected because the City would not be able to levy the

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full amount of the premium without such a hearing. Alderman **Myers moved** to renew with IML for 2019. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes, and two (2) Absent. Chad Morse with Porter-Hay Insurance reminded the Council that the IML renewal actually begins on January 1, so they will issue a one month renewal for December to get the City on track.

- 2. Ordinance 2018-17 Solar Energy System Zoning Ordinance:** Mayor Maurer stated that this ordinance has been reviewed and recommended by both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission. The ZBA has recommended the addition to item “f” to 31-13-8, to add the minimum fence height of 6 feet, and the Planning Commission has recommended adding item “i” to 31-13-8, a clause pertaining to adding landscaping. Alderman **Myers moved** to adopt Ordinance 2018-17 Solar Energy System Zoning as amended. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes, and two (2) absent. Attorney McCoy stated that Love’s will now need a special use permit for their proposed solar farm, which will need to be approved by the ZBA. Decommissioning the solar farm could be addressed at that time, which could be part of the deed if the land was ever sold.
- 3. TIF America’s Best Value Inn Final Costs:** Mayor Maurer stated that this TIF application has been evaluated and approved by the Economic Development Group. The eligible costs total \$28,908.00, so the 75% payout would be \$21,681.00. Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the final payout of \$21,681.00 to America’s Best Value Inn. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. TIF Request for Knoxville Fire Protection District:** Mayor Maurer reported that the Knoxville Fire Protection District had submitted a TIF application for work on the front exterior pillars. The amount of grant financing requested is \$3,187.50. Since the Fire District is a taxing body, the Economic Development Group (EDG) has advised the City to provide an inter-governmental agreement to the Fire District. Once the project is completed, the Fire District will submit a final figure to the City. The City will then ask the EDG will draw up the necessary inter-governmental agreement.
- 2. Ordinance 2018-18 Zoning Ordinance Amendments:** Mayor Maurer stated that the purpose of this amendment was to combine the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission to create one body with seven seats to streamline the recommendation process. In essence, the Planning Commission would be closing down. Both the ZBA and the Planning Commission are agreeable to this change. The Mayor can, at his discretion, appoint current Planning Commission members to the new ZBA. All Planning Commission members have stated they would like to be seated on the ZBA. Attorney McCoy stated that by having both a ZBA and a Planning Commission, we are currently doing more than what the law requires. Alderman **Hillier moved** to adopt

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Ordinance 2018-18 Zoning Ordinance Amendments. Alderman **Heller seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

- 3. Tax Levy for 2018-2019:** The agenda listed inaccurate dates for this item, which should read just 2018. Attorney McCoy provided two alternative ordinances, one a flat levy of \$348,869.00, the same as 2017. The other ordinance increases the liability insurance levy by \$17,000.00 over the 2017 amount, to defray the costs of the liability insurance fund, for a total of \$365,869.00. Attorney McCoy stated that he is trying to keep the City from having to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing, which would be necessary if the levy was 1.05% or more of the property taxes extended the prior year. After discussing the pros and cons of raising the levy, the suggestion was made to increase only the liability insurance levy by \$5,731.00 to a total of \$70,000.00, with a new grand total of \$354,600.00. Alderman **Heller moved** to approve Ordinance 2018-19 – Tax Levy, with the aforementioned amendment. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes votes, one (1) No vote, and two (2) Absent.

Mayor's Report:

- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
- The Mayor told Troy Kirgan of MidCentury Fiber that the Council was not in favor of subdividing the City-owned lot on North St for them to use to house equipment. The Mayor suggested the lot west of the Police Station, former buildings owned by Locke's Roofing and Howe's Overhead Doors, and the empty lot east of Hurd-Hendrick's Funeral Home. He has also been trying to reach a representative of Habitat for Humanity to see what their plans are for 207 E. North St, as another alternative for MidCentury.
- The Knoxville Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 1:00 pm. Council members who intend on participating in the parade will meet at the High School at 12:30 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: None.

Cemetery – Hillier: None.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None.

Parks – Eiker: None.

Police – Myers: Alderman Myers reported that the leak on the Police Station roof is scheduled to be repaired, and that bids are being requested to replace the pillars on the front of the building.

Sanitation – Naslund: None.

Streets – Heller: None.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: None.

Adjourn: At about 7:59 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Submitted by:

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Leslie Wilt, Acting City Clerk