

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

Monday, January 21, 2019, 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, Engineer Cooper and Acting City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Naslund. Also in attendance: Mr. Mark Ferrier, Mr. Gary Bryan, Mr. Troy Kirgan with MidCentury Fiber, Mr. John Smith with Love's Travel Stop, Ms. Kiersten Sheets, Mr. Jared Poppett, and three members of the press.

Public Comments: Mr. Mark Ferrier, 302 Division St, commented that he is against placing stop signs at Division and Grove Streets. He said that the Police had been very helpful in monitoring speeding in that area.

Approval of Minutes: Aldermen **Eiker moved** to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2019 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with one abstention.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: No report.

Engineer Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

City Clerk's Report: Acting City Clerk Wilt distributed an 8 month financial report.

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

Information Items: Mayor Maurer pointed out that the monthly departmental operating reports were available in the online Council packet.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Request for Stop Signs at Division and Grove Streets:** At the January 7, 2019 City Council meeting, a resident had requested that additional stop signs be added at this intersection to slow down traffic. After conferring with Supervisor of Public Works Rossell and Engineer Cooper, Mayor Maurer noted that additional stopping can damage a street, plus stop signs are not effective at slowing down traffic. Division Street was

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recently repaved and is currently in excellent condition. By general consensus, it was agreed that no additional stop signs are needed at that intersection.

2. **Random Drug Testing for City Employees:** Attorney McCoy provided an updated version of this policy, which has added language regarding cannabis and random testing. The testing will only apply to employees in safety positions. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept Appendix C Drug Free Workplace Policy. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent. Alderman Myers will contact the City of Galesburg to see who administers their random screening.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MidCentury Fiber Request to purchase City Lot:** Troy Kirgan, representing MidCentury Fiber, requested to purchase a 50'x75' portion in the southeast corner of the city-owned lot west of the Police station. MidCentury would construct a 4'x4' node to house their electronic equipment, with the option to turn that into a larger office at a later date as necessary. The lot is zoned C-I-M and would need to be subdivided. A previous survey would need to be located, plus a new survey would be required. Attorney McCoy asked Mr. Kirgan if the company would consider a long term lease, such as 50 or 100 years. Mr. Kirgan will inquire and get back to the Council.
2. **Subdivision Request:** Mayor Maurer reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on January 16, 2019 to consider a request to subdivide parcel 10-27-200-006 at 963 US Hwy 150E, owned by Gary Bryan, to sell the land with the cell tower. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted to recommend the approval of this subdivision request, which is less than 1.5 miles outside of the city limits. Alderman **Heller moved** to allow the subdivision request. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
3. **Solar Farm Special Use Permit:** Mayor Maurer reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on January 16, 2019 to consider a Special Use Permit to install a solar farm at Love's Travel Stop, 1405 Knox Hwy 9. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted to recommend approval of the special use permit. Attorney McCoy drafted an ordinance that included a decommission plan and a \$50,000.00 performance bond request. There will also be fencing to hide the panels, plus landscaping on the street side. Two items that needed to be added are requiring live vegetation under the solar array to aid in water run off plus addressing setbacks or easements for utilities. Attorney McCoy will add those two items to the ordinance. Alderman **Myers moved** to approve Ordinance 2019-02 as modified. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
4. **Approval to Write Off Old Closed Water Account Balance Dues:** Account Specialist Tuthill had provided a list of 7 past due balances on closed water accounts that she had been unable to collect, totaling \$501.18. Alderman **Heller moved** to write off said

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balances. Alderman **Mahar seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

Mayor's Report:

- Supervisor of Public Works Rossell will arrange to remove the small damaged door overhang on the east side of the library. A small awning may be added instead. Dr. Mike Kotula owns the wall in the library alley. The wall is falling down, and he has been asked to remove it so that the alley can be accessed by library patrons again.
- The Knoxville Fire Protection District met on January 10, 2019. Mayor Maurer asked them to make a list of additional desired capital improvements, which includes replacing furnaces, improving signage, and replacing overhead doors. This list will be given to the Economic Development Council to determine what would qualify to be included in an intergovernmental agreement with the City.
- The Action Team met on January 15, 2019. They are trying to arrange for an easement north of the BP gas station to construct a Welcome to Knoxville sign. They are also working on the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, and the Fishing Derby. A Fishing Derby meeting will be held on February 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Old Courthouse.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals met on January 16, 2019. Business from that meeting was already discussed in New Business.
- Mid-Century Fiber is holding an informational meeting for residents on January 31, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Hurd's Fellowship Center. They will discuss internet and telephone options.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative – Benjamin: The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Cemetery – Hillier: Alderman Hillier thanked the Street Department for plowing after the recent snow storms.

Community & Economic Development – McGovern: None.

Parks – Eiker: None.

Police – Myers: None.

Sanitation – Naslund: None.

Streets – Heller: Alderman Heller asked for an update on the status of the uninhabited home at 220 W Ann St, which could be considered a nuisance. Attorney McCoy had no report at this time.

Water/Sewer – Mahar: None.

Executive Session: At 8:00 pm, Alderman **Hillier moved** to adjourn to Executive (closed) session, pursuant to Section 2(c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)), for discussing the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific

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City employee. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at about 8:00 pm.

Regular Session Resumes: At 8:25 pm, the Regular Session of the City Council Meeting resumed.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Benjamin, Eiker, Heller, Hillier, Mahar, Myers; Mayor Maurer, Acting City Clerk Wilt, Chief of Police Poyner, Attorney Rob McCoy. **Absent:** Aldermen McGovern and Naslund, City Treasurer Bivens.

Adjourn: At about 8:30 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