

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

Monday, February 4, 2019, 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, Heller, Hillier, Mahar, and Myers; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, and Acting City Clerk Wilt.
Absent: Aldermen McGovern and Naslund. Also in attendance: Mr. Jared Poplett, and two members of the press.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Eiker moved** to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2019 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Random Drug Testing for City Employees Update:** Alderman Myers reported that the City could be part of a consortium with OSF Occupational Medicine for \$100.00 per year and drug tests would cost \$35.00-\$60.00 per test. OSF would do the random drawing and would contact Acting City Clerk Wilt whenever a city employee's name was selected. It was also noted that CDL drivers are required to have a physical every two years as per DOT requirements. Alderman **Myers moved** that the City contract with OSF Occupational Medicine for their random drug screening program. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and two (2) Absent. Acting City Clerk Wilt will contact OSF to set up the program.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion on City Owned Properties:** Mayor Maurer listed several city-owned properties and asked for input as to what steps to take with each.
 - 610 S. Division St – has liens totaling \$11,116.88. Attorney McCoy will contact the lienholders to determine if they would negotiate the liens with us in the interest of getting the lot sold.

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- 207 E. North St – Has no liens. The City is holding the lot for use by Habitat for Humanity, who plans on building on the lot some time in 2019.
 - 220 W. Ann St – not owned by the City. Attorney McCoy had recently send a letter to the homeowner about the nuisance property.
 - Division St. Lot north of Wastewater Treatment Plant – holding for possible solar panel use, if additional land in the area could be purchased.
 - East North St. Lot north of Big Catz Plaza – holding for potential spot for a new City Hall.
 - East Ann St. Lot west of the Police Station – MidCentury Fiber would like to purchase part of this lot to use to house equipment. They had been previously asked about leasing, but they are only interested in buying a lot. Mayor Maurer noted that there are discrepancies with a 2003 survey and the current county GIS map, including showing the current section of Ann St as part of that lot, and not a street at all. He would like to subdivide the lot, which would require a new survey. The lot is currently zoned C-I-M, but he would like it subdivided into residential size lots. The lot is in the TIF district, so some of these costs potentially could be paid for with TIF funds. A current appraisal is needed first to see if MidCentury Fiber would be willing to pay what it is worth. Alderman **Myers moved** to allow the mayor to get the East Ann St. lot appraised. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and two (2) Absent. Alderman Myers suggested that opening that section of Ann St be placed on the next agenda, to correct the discrepancies.
2. **Resolution 2019-01 – Highway Closure for St. Patrick’s Day Parade:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to adopt Resolution 2019-01 for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Sunday, March 17, 2019. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.
 3. **City of Knoxville Natural Gas Contract Renewal:** Rock River Energy had obtained four bids for natural gas for City buildings, as the current contract expires in May. Alderman **Myers moved** to accept the 24 month bid from Constellation Energy at \$0.3100 or the current rate as of the next business day. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and two (2) Absent.
 4. **2019-2020 Wheel Tax Sticker Ideas:** Sticker suggestions included the new City trucks and the Community Bible Church. By general consensus, mock-ups of stickers featuring Community Bible Church will be requested for approval at a future meeting.

Mayor’s Report:

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
- There will be a fishing derby informational meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Old Courthouse. Attorney McCoy cautioned those planning on attending to not discuss public business, which would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act.
- The Council was provided with an 8 month financial report at the last meeting, and the Mayor reminded members to look it over.
- The City Council was informed about an article appearing in the Jan 21, 2019, Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing regarding Senate Bill 203 being signed into law by Governor Pritzker. This law will change the manner in which prevailing wages will

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be calculated after June 1, 2019. Attorney McCoy noted that the IL Dept of Labor should publish something about this that is relative to Knoxville's area.

Committee Reports

- **Administration:** Alderman Benjamin requested that putting out cans for fireworks donations be added to the next agenda.
- **Police:** Alderman Myers requested that snow removal procedures and emergency closing of city services policies be added to the next agenda.
- **Water/Sewer:** Alderman Mahar reported that he will be meeting with Bock Inc owner Stan Bockewitz to discuss items that may need to be repaired or replaced.

Adjourn: At 7:55 PM, Alderman **Hillier moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt
Acting City Clerk