

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

**Monday, May 6, 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, Hillier, Myers and Naslund; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, Engineer Cooper, Water Superintendent Johnson, and Acting City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen Eiker, Heller, Mahar, and McGovern. Also in attendance: Mr. Jeremiah Sullivan, Mrs. Kristin Sullivan, Mr. John Newcomb, Mrs. Robin Newcomb, Mr. Mike Howard, Mr. Charles Gruner, Mrs. Linda Potter, Mr. Zach Shaw, Mr. David Wilt, Mr. Cooper Wilt, Mr. Jared Poppett, and two members of the press.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2019 City Council Meeting; Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

**Swearing in of New Council:** Mayor Maurer administered the Oath of Office to newly elected City Clerk Leslie Wilt. He also thanked outgoing Council members Ed Mahar, Kirk Heller, and Jim McGovern for their years of service.

**Adjourn:** At 7:05 PM, Alderman **Myers moved** to Adjourn Sine Die. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

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**Call to Order:** Mayor Maurer called the Meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**Roll Call: Present:** Aldermen Benjamin, Hillier, Myers and Naslund; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Attorney McCoy, Chief of Police Poyner, Engineer Cooper, Water Superintendent Johnson, and City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Alderman Eiker. Also in attendance: Mr. Jeremiah Sullivan, Mrs. Kristin Sullivan, Mr. John Newcomb, Mrs. Robin Newcomb, Mr. Mike Howard, Mr. Charles Gruner, Mrs. Linda Potter, Mr. Zach Shaw, Mr. David Wilt, Mr. Cooper Wilt, Mr. Jared Poppett, and two members of the press.

**Public Comments:** Kristin Sullivan, 311 Pleasant Ave, addressed the Council about sewer back-up multiple times in her home recently. She has spoken with the Water Department and does not feel that enough is being done to help her situation. She would like to see the line jetted on a regular basis. Water Superintendent Johnson reported that due to the recent heavy rainfalls, the pipe cannot be jetted upon request due to the storm sewer being full. When he has been able to jet, there was a large mass of baby wipes stuck in the system. Residents in that area were recently sent letters informing them to not flush these types of products. The suggestion was

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made to perform a monthly all call during the spring rainy season, reminding residents to not flush these items, plus to note it on the City website and Facebook page.

**Appointment of Council Members:** Mayor Maurer appointed Mike Howard for Ward 1 Alderman. Alderman **Hillier moved** to accept the appointment. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with four (4) Yes and one (1) Absent. Mayor Maurer appointed Charles Gruner for Ward 3 Alderman. Alderman **Hillier moved** to accept the appointment. Alderman Benjamin seconded the motion, which **passed** with five (5) Yes and one (1) Absent. Mayor Maurer administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Council Members Mike Howard and Charles Gruner.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**Engineer Report:** Engineer Cooper reported that the tower painting project is progressing well, with the North Tower painting finishing up this week.

**Attorney Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** No report.

**City Clerk Report:** No report.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Mayor Maurer reported that Zoning Board of Appeals member Mike Howard has resigned that position effective May 2, 2019. Mr. Howard has accepted the appointment as Ward 1 Alderman. A new member will be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Intergovernmental Agreement for Annual Oil and Chip of City Streets:** Mayor Maurer presented the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Knox County Highway Department for the 2019 Seal Coat project. The rates are the same as in 2018. Alderman Myers asked if the City could do its own street sweeping, instead of paying the Highway Department to do it. Engineer Cooper said that the agreement could be altered. Alderman **Myers moved** that the City enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement, striking Article 3 concerning street sweeping. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and one (1) Absent.
2. **Outstanding Water Bill 108 S. Division St:** Mr. John Newcomb and Mrs. Robin Newcomb, owners of 108 S. Division St, returned to the Council about their tenant's unpaid water bill of \$438.72. The Newcomb's do not feel responsible for this amount as they claim they were not notified of the past balance for several months, so they were unable to address it with the tenant, who moved out with no notice. The account had water usage of \$194.74, penalties of \$18.98, delinquent fees of \$200.00, and non-

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sufficient funds bank charge for \$25.00. The tenant had paid part of the balance at one point, but that check did not clear the bank. The Water Department had turned off the water at one point, but the valve was faulty, and the tenant continued to use water without the City knowing. Alderman **Myers moved** to waive the penalties and delinquent fees for 108 S. Division St. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and one (1) Absent. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb agreed to pay the water charges and bank fee, less the \$100.00 deposit made by the tenant, totaling \$119.74. The faulty valve was then addressed. By general consensus, the Water Department will provide the materials for replacing the valve, as is custom, but they will also dig up the valve at no charge. The final work, to be done by a licensed plumber, will be the responsibility of the Newcombs.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Poppy Days Proclamation:** Mayor Maurer read aloud and then presented the 2019 Poppy Day Proclamation to Mrs. Linda Potter of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- 2. Resolution 2019-03 – Hire Brian Mitchell – Grounds Maintenance Worker:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to hire Brian Mitchell at \$8.80 per hour. Alderman **Benjamin seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and one (1) Absent.
- 3. Resolution 2019-04 – Hire Jeff Jefferson – Grounds Maintenance Worker:** Alderman **Benjamin moved** to hire Jeff Jefferson at \$8.80 per hour. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and one (1) Absent.
- 4. Resolution 2019-05 through 2019-42 – City Employee Salary Adjustments:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve these resolutions, which reflect the wage increases approved at the April 15, 2019 Council meeting. Alderman **Howard seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes and one (1) Absent.
- 5. Proposed Liquor Ordinance – Outdoor Events for CR License Holders:** Attorney McCoy provided a draft Ordinance, adding Subclass 2 to Section 4-1-6, to allow the sale of alcohol at outdoor events for Class CR liquor license holders. If granted, this addition would allow St. Mary’s Chapel to apply for a CR liquor license and be able to serve beer and wine at up to twenty events per year, at \$25.00 per event. That fee mirrors the state fee for the same thing. It was suggested to let Mr. Keith Vaughn, owner of St. Mary’s Chapel, review the ordinance. There are also provisions for fencing off the area where liquor would be dispensed. Mr. Vaughn and his staff would be responsible for serving liquor appropriately. Alderman **Myers moved** to table the discussion until the May 20, 2019 meeting. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

### Mayor’s Report:

- The new representative for the City retirement plan at John Graham & Associates is Christopher Franklin.
- Brenda Soland with MidCentury Communications met with Mayor Maurer and City Clerk Wilt and is submitting a plan to upgrade the City building phone system.

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- The annual cross connection inspections for City facilities will be performed by AMP Mechanical Services.
- Miller, Hall, and Triggs Inc is hosting their biennial law seminar on May 11, 2019
- The IML is hosting a seminar for newly elected officials on June 14, 2019, in Galesburg.
- After the recent heavy rains, a small leak was discovered in the City Hall roof.
- Also after the rains, part of the ceiling tile at the Library fell in, exposing plaster. A plan for repair has not been decided yet. A proposal totaling \$660.00 has been received from Ken Reid to repair the expansion joints on the north and east elevations, and Mr. Reid will be contracted for the work.
- Committee chair seats may change, and will be announced at the May 20, 2019 meeting.
- There is discussion of combining two part time positions into one full time position. This matter may be brought before the Council at a future meeting.
- Ameren will be trimming trees throughout the entire town in the near future.
- The Post Office has been informed about the impending street work on the Public Square. They will temporarily move their mail drop box during that time.
- There is no update from MidCentury Fiber about purchasing city-owned property west of the Police Station.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

**Committee Reports**

- **Administration:** No report
- **Cemetery:** No report, but Alderman Hillier reported that Tony Plack with the Fire Department will be in attendance at the May 20, 2019 meeting to request to shut down part of North St on June 1, 2019 from 10:00 – 6:00 for the Firemen’s Challenge
- **Economic Development:** No report
- **Parks:** No report
- **Police:** No report
- **Streets:** No report
- **Water/Sewer:** No report

**Adjourn:** At 8:04 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  
City Clerk