

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

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Due to the current Illinois Governor's Executive Order regarding the COVID-19 Stay at Home Mandate, this Regular City Council meeting was held via remote access in accordance with current Open Meetings Act guidelines.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Maurer called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He stated that this meeting was changed from an in-person meeting scheduled for Monday, November 16, to a remote access meeting due to additional COVID-19 concerns. Attorney McCoy stated that new remote access guidelines require all votes to be roll call votes, and that the meeting be recorded.

All recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Roll Call: Present:** Aldermen Benjamin, Gruner, Hillier, Howard, Myers, and Naslund; Mayor Maurer, Treasurer Bivens, Chief of Police Poyner, Attorney McCoy, Engineer Cooper, and City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Aldermen Eiker and Hope. Also present: one member of the press. Alderman Eiker joined the meeting at approximately 7:15 PM.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2020 City Council Meeting. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion which **passed** with six (6) Yes and two (2) Absent.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**Attorney Report:** No report.

**Engineer Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bivens reported that she has started moving funds monthly from General, Water, and Sewer checking accounts to corresponding Money Market accounts to gather interest.

**City Clerk's Report:** No report.

**Payment of City Bills:** Alderman **Gruner 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 noted that the monthly departmental operating reports were available in the online Council packet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution 2020-45 Christmas Parade December 5, 2020:** Alderman **Myers moved** to cancel the 2020 Knoxville Christmas Parade due to recent state restrictions on large

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gatherings due to COVID-19. Alderman **Howard seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.

Alderman Eiker joined the meeting at this point.

2. **Step Screen Repair Invoice Approval:** An invoice for \$24,490.00 for step screen repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was received from Huber Technology. Bock employee Bill Oberg was able to work with the company to amend the amount, citing extra parts that were not used and increased labor due to an injury to a Huber employee that was not the City's responsibility. Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve the invoice from Huber Technology for \$17,847.12. Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.
3. **Sewer Lining Project:** Alderman Gruner reported that the recent sewer clean-out prior to televising and lining Glenway Ave had caused sewer back-up in at least one home, which was taken care of by Hoerr Construction. Engineer Cooper reported that while televising, it was discovered that part of the supposed 8 inch sewer line on Glenway Ave is actually 6 inches. This change will cause a \$6,300.00 increase in the project, but that will still be below the total estimated cost of the project. Alderman **Gruner moved** to accept this price increase on sewer lining. Alderman **Myers seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2021 Tax Levies:** Mayor Maurer stated that there will be a public meeting prior to the December 21, 2020 Council meeting to discuss tax levies, and final approval of the levies will be voted on at the regular Council meeting. Alderman Myers has suggested a 3% increase. He will meet with Mayor Maurer and Treasurer Bivens to discuss levy caps. The levy must be filed with the County by December 29, 2020.
2. **Sidewalk Repair 221 W Ann St:** Alderman Myers reported that a terrace tree at 221 W. Ann St. was removed by the homeowner, with City permission, because it was damaging the sidewalk. By general consent, the Council agreed to repair the sidewalk and pay for the stump to be ground out. Aldermen Eiker and Myers will discuss the matter with Supervisor of Public Works Rossell, and the matter will be addressed at a future Council meeting.
3. **Yard Waste Truck Injector Replacement:** Alderman **Howard moved** to approve the invoice for Nichols Diesel for yard waste truck injector replacement for \$6,932.56. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes and one (1) Absent.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Supervisor of Public Works Rossell broke his ankle at home on November 13.

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- Old Business item #1: BP Station Liquor License Request, from the cancelled November 16, 2020 meeting agenda was not placed on the agenda for this current meeting. Since the meeting changed from in-person to remote access, Mayor Maurer spoke with Mr. Kataria about his liquor license request and he consented to have the item discussed at a future meeting.
- The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
- The next Library Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Committee Reports**

- **Administration:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** No report.
- **Economic Development:** No report.
- **Parks:** Alderman Howard reported that as Ward 1 Alderman, he had received complaints about a large dirt pile on a vacant lot at 220 W Ann St. Chief Poyner responded that he is aware of the situation, and that the material must be there for 30 days (December 7) before it can be abated through the nuisance ordinance. Chief Poyner was advised to inform the owner now of the intent to abate, to give him additional time to dispose of the dirt.
- **Police:** Alderman Naslund asked the status of advertising for the open police position. Clerk Wilt responded that ads had been run in the local paper and online. Also, Attorney McCoy reported that the training cost reimbursement contracts for former officers Keith and Cudd are enforceable. He will send a letter to both men asking for payment.
- **Sanitation:** No report.
- **Streets:** No report.
- **Water/Sewer:** Alderman Gruner asked that a phone allowance policy be placed on the December 7, 2020 agenda.

**Adjourn:** At 7:40 PM, Alderman **Gruner moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. The meeting was adjourned

Submitted by:

Leslie Wilt  
City Clerk