

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 33 N Public Sq, Knoxville, IL

Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mayor Myers called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

All rose to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll Call: Present: Aldermen Eiker, Gruner, Hillier, Hope, Moore, Reed, and Taylor; Mayor Myers, Treasurer Barnum, Attorney McCoy, Chief Poyner, and Supervisor of Public Works Rossell. **Absent:** Clerk Wilt, Engineer Cooper. Also present: Ms. Penny Flesner and Mr. Trevor Myers.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2023 City Council Meeting. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: No report.

Engineer Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

City Clerk's Report: No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Mayor Myers recognized and thanked two City employees for their years of service. Chief Ron Poyner was presented with a 25-year recognition award, and Account Specialist Melanie Tuthill has been employed for 19 years.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Yard Waste Burning Options:** Proposed changes: Alderman Gruner would like to add natural gas for outdoor cooking to Section 10-2-5 (d). He noted some people run a gas line up to their deck directly for grills and fireplaces. Alderman Hope would like the word “furniture” to be added to Section 10-2-5 (1). Discussed adding specific details due to reports of burning of diapers, and food scraps, although those items fall under rubbish.

Mayor Myers asked the Council to confirm that they wanted Section 10-2-2 (1) to specify no leaf burning on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The hours for wiener roast fires were discussed and decided to get rid of that statement, but keep items (1) through (6).

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For new Section 10-2-5-7: Allow leaves and grass clippings at dump 7 days a week. Leaves and grass clippings in one section and sticks/tree logs in another section. Add compost.

Penalties section to be revised to include penalties of \$100.00, \$250.00, and \$750.00 for first, second and third burning offenses, at the discretion of the police officer. Fourth offense would be lifetime ban but not sure how to enforce that. There will be a fine with no warning for illegal dumping.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Citywide Clean-Up:** Supervisor of Public Works Rossell suggested Knoxville follow the City of Galesburg and stop citywide clean-up, traditionally held in April each year. Oversize items will be picked up if a purchased tag is on the item(s). Alderman Reed suggested advertising the dump and trash collection process. Alderman Hope stated City needs to make purchasing tags a bit easier, since not everyone is able to go to City Hall during hours open; or maybe be able to purchase a multi pack at a reduced rate so have them whenever needed. Discussed encouraging the use of dumpsters and making them cheaper or half price several times a year, or just during one month. If all dumpsters are rented, there will be a waiting list and the price can be extended to when the dumpster becomes available. Alderman **Hillier moved** to cancel citywide clean-up and charge half price for dumpsters during the month of April. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes.
- 2. Courthouse Painting and Column Repair:** The first quote for \$22,965.00 was for the column repair; received an additional quote for \$20,155.00 to repair rotted wood/paint the upper level. Mayor Myers stated that this is the last building that needs major repair; the Jail needs a back porch, but that can be handled internally. Knox County Historical Sites voted at their January 19, 2023 meeting to pay \$20,000.00 toward repairs. The City can use TIF money for their share, but there presently is not enough available until after May. If voted on at this meeting, money will have to come out of General Fund and then put back when TIF is received, which will be anywhere from \$230,000 to \$260,000. It is not feasible for City employees to do the work considering manpower, equipment, and time available for the project. Per Attorney McCoy, Council can either separate the bids and vote on each one, or waive further bidding with a two-thirds vote. Bid A is for the columns; Bid B is for the top painting/repair. Alderman **Gruner moved** to accept Bid A. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes. Alderman **Gruner moved** to accept Bid B. Alderman **Taylor seconded** the motion, which passed with seven (7) Yes votes.
- 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting 1-26-2023:** The Zoning Board of Appeals reviewed and recommended approval of two requests at their January 26, 2023 meeting. Chance

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Ray/Ray's Auto Service, 225 E Main St, \$25,106.00 for new windows, new door, and outside materials. Guel's Inc/Knoxville Bar & Grill, 310 W Main St, \$29,439.77 for new carpet, tile, parking lot asphalt.

Mayor's Report:

- Two projects for after May:
 1. Purchase a UTV for use by all City departments, so cost can be spread out. Purchase of UTV to be put on February 20, 2023 meeting agenda. It was noted they were also getting a snowblower. Alderman Gruner suggested businesses remove outdoor tables and chairs from sidewalk during winter months to make plowing easier.
 2. The salt shed across from Street Department building was not built correctly and cannot be reasonably fixed for intended use. Alderman Eiker presented blueprints for new building. Supervisor of Public Works Rossell will get local contractor bids for steel truss work and concrete. The current building will be fixed to use for storage.
- The school district always pays their water bill late; it gets mailed on the due date. They have been protesting the late fees for several years. Their individual contract trash rate has not been raised in 12 years, so they will receive a letter from the City stating this rate will be increased. Vote to raise the trash rates for the school district will be on next meeting's agenda.
- The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Committee Reports

- **Administration:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** No report.
- **Economic Development:** No report.
- **Parks:** Alderman Reed reported pickle ball courts are close to finished. A bid was received for poles/nets for \$1,488.00; just need paint for the lines. Mayor Myers noted the Knoxville Community Fund might be able to donate basketball backboards. They have funds available if the City can come up with projects. Suggestions of a dog park and a baseball field are not feasible due to lack of space, volunteers and funds.
Other: Alderman Reed received a call from a resident at 1004 E. Main Street with a request to tear up old bricks at bottom of their driveway. Both sides of property from the driveway currently is grass and they would like to put in a sidewalk. Mayor Myers said they would need to make a request to the City to put on agenda for approval.
- **Police:** No report.
- **Sanitation:** No report.
- **Streets:** No report.
- **Water/Sewer:** Alderman Gruner has received bids for sewer work; brand new is \$35,000.00 higher than other bids. This information will be in the Council packet and on agenda to vote at next meeting.

Adjourn: At 7:56 PM, Alderman **Eiker moved** to Adjourn the Meeting; Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. The meeting was adjourned.

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Submitted by:

Janet Barnum, Treasurer
For:
Leslie Wilt, City Clerk