

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Knoxville City Hall Annex, 33 N Public Sq, Knoxville IL

Monday, August 7, 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, Chief Poyner, Attorney McCoy and City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** Engineer Cooper. Also present: Mr. Dan Hiatt, Mr. Tim Johnson, Mrs. Deb Johnson, Mr. Jon Rainey, Dr. Andrea Guerrero.

Public Comments:

- Tim and Deb Johnson, 104 Douglas St stated that Ameren removed a terrace tree from his property recently, against his wishes, and then the City arranged for the stump to be ground out. He received an invoice from the City for his half (\$125.00) of the grind fee, which he says he will not pay as the City did not give him an option on the grind. Mayor Myers will investigate the matter.
- Alderman Hillier stated that her neighbor had a medical emergency recently, and that the neighbor expressed thanks and appreciation to the first responders, notably Officer Zac Cox.
- Mayor Myers introduced Jon Rainey, 403 N Madison St, as a prospective Council member for the open Ward 1 seat.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2023 City Council Meeting. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

GENERAL REPORTS

Attorney Report: Attorney McCoy noted that demolition proceedings for 209 N Hebard St were in place.

Engineer Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: No report

City Clerk's Report: No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Employee Health Insurance:** Mr. Dan Hiatt with Hiatt Insurance presented the updated Premium Saver plan that lowers the deductible in conjunction with the Blue Cross Blue

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Shield plan. Mr. Hiett will present dental and vision coverage options, and the complete healthcare plans will be finalized at the August 21, 2023 Council meeting.

- 2. Funding City Website Upgrade:** The cost of the updated City website design, approved at the July 17, 2023 Council meeting, was not included in the appropriations ordinance. A supplemental ordinance will be prepared for the Town Fund line item to cover the website update plus a necessary upgrade to payroll software, once those costs are determined.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Demolition of 109 W Main St:** Attorney McCoy presented a draft demolition contract for 109 W Main St. Alderman **Moore moved** to select Lockwood Excavating and Construction to demolish 109 W Main St for \$8,500.00. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes. Clerk Wilt will contact Lockwood Excavating about the contract.
- 2. Residential Dumpster Rate Allowance for Fall 2023:** Alderman **Gruner moved** to reduce residential dumpster rates by 50% during October 2023. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** by seven (7) Yes votes. This is a repeat of the program offered in April 2023.
- 3. Resolution 2023-37 Hire Full Time Utility Worker Jerze Syron:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve Resolution 2023-37 to hire Full Time Utility Worker Jerze Syron at \$19.00 per hour. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes.
- 4. Resolution 2023-28 Hire Part Time Grounds Maintenance Worker Sam McCormick:** Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve Resolution 2023-38 to hire Part Time Grounds Maintenance Worker Sam McCormick at \$13.00 per hour. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes.
- 5. Resolution 2023-39 Hire Full Time Police Officer Michael Morrison:** Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve Resolution 2023-39 to hire Full Time Police Officer Michael Morrison at \$20.00 per hour. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes. Mr. Morrison is not certified, but Chief Poyner is enrolling him in training in Decatur in January 2024.
- 6. Appoint Building Administrator Doug Roehlk:** Mayor Myers reported that Building Administrator Joe Lorenzen has resigned effective July 31, 2023. He recommended Doug Roehlk for the position. Alderman **Hillier moved** to appoint Doug Roehlk as Building Administrator. Alderman **Hope seconded** the motion, which **passed** with seven (7) Yes votes.

Mayor's Report:

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- Scott Barnum, 315 E North St, has purchased the next door property at 317 E North St. He wants to tear down the house and put up a fence on the north side of both properties. The City owns the land directly north. Mr. Barnum would like to square off the property in the back with the fence, and is requesting that the City give him a section of the property at no cost. It is an approximately 30'x30' section, which will need to be surveyed. Mr. Barnum will attend a future Council meeting to formally make his request.
- The work on the Old Courthouse roof repair is in process. The front pillar has been repaired.
- Mayor Myers attended the Knoxville Community Fund meeting on August 2, 2023. Randy Newcomb with the Galesburg Tourism & Visitor's Bureau addressed that group about available grants and signage options for Knoxville's Historic Sites.
- Mayor Myers attended the Knox County Scenic Drive Board meeting in July 2023. Fees gathered from vendors on the Drive pay for advertising costs for all stops.
- Mayor Myers is still working with Comcast to get them to remove decommissioned utility poles.
- The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Committee Reports:

- **Administration:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** Alderman Hillier reported that she attended the August 1, 2023 Library Board meeting, and that Doug Slaton has been named Treasurer.
- **Economic Development:** No report.
- **Parks:** No report.
- **Police:** No report.
- **Sanitation:** No report.
- **Streets:** No report.
- **Water/Sewer:** No report.

Adjourn: At 7:46 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