

# CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## Regular Council Meeting

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

Monday, December 4, 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, Rainey, Reed, and Taylor; Mayor Myers, Treasurer Barnum, Chief Poyner, Attorney McCoy, and City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** None. Also present: Mrs. Jill Davis, Mr. Rob Link, Mrs. Joy Link, Mrs. Karen Benjamin, Mr. Tom Worden, Ms. Penny Flesner, Officer Zac Cox. Ms. Morgan Seabloom joined the meeting after it began.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Rob Link and Mrs. Joy Link asked permission to post signage at the main entrances to Knoxville, announcing that their son Jack Link has received the American FFA degree, a national degree. By general consensus, the Links were granted permission, and the City employees will install the signs, which will be provided by the Links.

Mrs. Jill Davis, 517 E South St, stated that she walks throughout Knoxville a lot, and stated that she was concerned about the poor condition of sidewalks throughout the town, especially in the business district. Mayor Myers explained the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program, and stated that some sidewalks are replaced each year through that program. Mrs. Davis stated that she feels that the City needs to repair sidewalks aside from that program. A citizen-led sidewalk study was performed a few years ago, and Mayor Myers stated that the study would be revisited. He stated that he would also like to see more sidewalks replaced, but due to the high cost, it is a slow process.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2023 City Council Meeting. Alderman **Hillier seconded** the motion which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent.

### GENERAL REPORTS

**Attorney Report:** Attorney McCoy updated the Council on current abated properties:

- 209 N Hebard St – in process for demolition
- 206 S Line St – occupant has been court ordered to leave the residence
- 214 W Grove St – trying to obtain compliance for yard clean up
- 307 Pleasant Ave – many nuisances, occupant has requested a jury trial

**Engineer Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report.

**City Clerk's Report:** Clerk Wilt reported that she received notice from the IL Dept of Transportation that the Motor Fuel Tax audit for 2022 was found to be correct.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

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None.

### OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Demolition Bids for 209 N Hebard St:** Bids to demolish 209 N Hebard St were received from Lockwood Excavating for \$17,500.00 and Gibbs Construction for \$19,000.00. Neither bid includes retiring water and sewer service, which City employees can perform. Asbestos was discovered after the bidding process, and the contractors will be asked to re-bid the job to include asbestos removal. The item was tabled until the December 18, 2023 Council meeting.
- 2. Sale of 109 W Main St:** Mayor Myers stated that the legal fees, asbestos inspection, and demolition of 109 W North St has cost the City \$15,666.35 so far, and he would like to sell the lot for at least that price. Attorney McCoy outlined the steps necessary to obtain the property.
- 3. TIF Final Approval – Knoxville Veterinary Service 125 N Public Sq:** The Economic Development Group has approved the finalized grant application for Knoxville Veterinary Service 125 N Public Sq. Alderman **Hillier moved** to approve the distribution of a TIF grant for \$40,000.00 for Knoxville Veterinary Service. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Employee Holiday Bonuses:** Employee holiday bonuses were discussed in closed session at the December 4, 2023 Administrative Committee meeting. Alderman **Hillier moved** to allow employee holiday bonuses totaling \$9,700.00. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion, which **passed** with eight (8) Yes votes.
- 2. Review of Plumbing Work at 174 Northview Dr:** Alderman Gruner stated that the homeowner of 174 Northview Dr had their sewer back up. The plumber hired to investigate went into the city main without permission and stated that there were roots there, which was causing the problem. The homeowner wants the City to pay the plumbing bill totaling \$235.88. Superintendent Johnson is currently on vacation, but had previously stated that the televising done in early 2023 did not show any roots in that area. Superintendent Johnson will be asked to televise that area, and the matter will be revisited at the December 18, 2023 Council meeting.
- 3. St Patrick's Day Parade:** Mrs. Karen Benjamin and Ms. Morgan Seabloom asked for permission to hold a St Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Ms. Seabloom will market the event and provide volunteers to assist with traffic control. The parade starts at the high school and ends at the town square. **Gruner moved** to allow representatives to move forward with plans for a St Patrick's Day Parade on March 16, 2024. Alderman **Hope seconded** the motion, which **passed** by voice vote with no dissent. The representatives were asked to report back at the January 15, 2024 Council meeting.

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### Mayor's Report:

- The Knoxville Christmas Parade and Downtown holiday event on December 2, 2023 were successes.
- The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

### Committee Reports:

- **Administration:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** Alderman Hillier thanked Jet Air Inc and Sabrina's Bridal for sponsoring the carriage rides during the downtown holiday event on December 2, 2023.
- **Economic Development:** No report.
- **Parks:** No report.
- **Police:** No report.
- **Sanitation:** No report.
- **Streets:** No report.
- **Water/Sewer:** Alderman Gruner stated that he had received a 5 year plan for the Water Department from Superintendent Johnson. Mayor Myers said that he had asked for 5 year plans from all department heads.

**Adjourn:** At 7:48 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