

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

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

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 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, Attorney McCoy, Chief Poyner, and City Clerk Wilt. **Absent:** None. Also present: Mr. John Howard, Ms. Penny Flesner, two additional people.

Public Comments: Mr. John Howard, owner of Riverbottom Tree Service, requested the opportunity to bid on City projects. He stated that he lives here, does work here, and spends money here, and he has noticed that the tree service that the City generally uses is not from Knoxville, even though he has offered his services in the past. He has noticed several potential hazards from cemetery trees damaged during the July 15, 2024 storm that still need to be removed. Alderman Rainey stated thanked Mr. Howard for his service during the recent storm, and stated that the City will review its bid process pertaining to tree trimming and removal for both planned and emergency work.

Approval of Minutes: Alderman **Gruner moved** to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2024 City Council Meeting. Alderman **Hillier 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: Clerk Wilt reported that the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election petition packets were available.

INFORMATION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Demolition of 209 N Hebard St:** Attorney McCoy reported that there is a motion hearing about this property scheduled for September 5, 2024. The bank has been slow to arrange for demolition of the house. Since the City would have been using the same contractor as the bank, Lockwood Excavating & Construction, it is possible that the City could arrange for demolition, but is possible the City may not get paid back for the work. This item will be revisited at the September 16, 2024 Council meeting.

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- 2. 1% Tax:** Attorney McCoy stated that a 1% service and sales tax could be used for infrastructure and property tax relief. The statute is unclear, but there does not appear to be a requirement for a referendum to add this tax. No public hearing is required, but in the efforts of transparency, residents would need to be informed through social media, via postings, and through public meetings. This tax would not replace the Wheel Tax, but could be used instead of the Wheel Tax, and the annual Wheel Tax could cease. There is also a 1% grocery tax option for the state of Illinois that could begin in January 2026, but it is separate from the other tax.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Purchase of 2025 Ford F-750 Salt Truck:** Alderman Eiker reported that, as part of the 5-year plan, the salt truck needs replacing. A 2025 Ford F-750 Diesel truck from Morrow Bothers Ford costs \$98,977.00. The stainless steel box can be removed from the existing truck and installed in the new truck by Koenig Body & Equipment for \$35,918.00. One third of the funds can be paid out of the TIF fund, and the rest of the funding can come out of the purchase of equipment line item for the truck, and the repair and maintenance of vehicles line item for the box work, both from the Street Department. Alderman **Eiker moved** to purchase a new salt truck and reuse the box for a total of \$134,895.00. Alderman **Gruner seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent.
- 2. Resolution 2024-44 – Hire Full Time Police Officer Nathan Laake:** Alderman **Moore moved** to approve Resolution 2024-44 – Hire Full Time Police Officer Nathan Laake at \$20.00 per hour. Alderman **Eiker seconded** the motion, which **passed** with six (6) Yes votes and two (2) Absent. Chief Poyner stated that Officer Laake replaces another officer, who resigned at the start of his police academy training on August 19, 2024. Officer Laake will be attending training in January.

Mayor's Report:

- The TIF extension approval letter from Knox County should be arriving this week, and will be forwarded to the Economic Development Group.
- The TIF Joint Review Board met on August 20, 2024.
- We are to receive an update on the Main St sidewalk project by October 1, 2024.
- Knox County will not be laying oil and chip on area towns in 2025, as they will be focusing on county roads. They have requested that towns save up funds and contract with them for larger projects in 2026, as it will save both parties time and money. The City will need to get bids for any necessary 2025 work.
- Comcast is starting to move some of their equipment from their unused poles.
- The backhoe needs additional windshield repairs.
- The trees that Burlington Northern trimmed and cut down on the easement area on the west side of town also fell on the Knox County Fairgrounds fence and damaged it, besides the water main area already noted. The Mayor will meet with the Knox County Fair Board.

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- The Mayor attended the most recent Knoxville School District #202 Board meeting.
- The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

- **Administration:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** No report.
- **Economic Development:** No report.
- **Parks:** Chief Poyner reported that people had been parking on the new pickleball courts, and that no parking signage is needed.
- **Police:** No report.
- **Sanitation:** No report.
- **Streets:** No report.
- **Water/Sewer:** No report.

Adjourn: At 7:49 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