

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST on Tuesday August 12, 2014 with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Ron Parker, Don Kring, Greg Matt, Linda Berndt, Jeff Berg and City Attorney, Dave Matsey.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Greg Matt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Citizen Paula Voss approached the council about organizing a committee to put on the Harvest Festival in 2015. It is too late to do anything this year. After a committee is formed, the next step would be to hold a fund raiser for seed money. Mayor Chambers said for her to keep him informed of what she is doing and he will assist.

Park Superintendent George said vandalism at the City parks has tapered off of late. He then gave an update on what was being done at each of the City's three parks. At Heritage Park a bench, swing set and slide has been installed. They also rehabilitated the monkey bars. Water Superintendent Todd Gardner will be running a water line down Ellis Street to hook up to a new water fountain by the basketball court. The board also plans to build a shelter there next year. At Sandy Acres Park, the new grass is growing and new tables placed there. The board is going to buy 34 parking bumpers for the parking lot to replace the telephone poles that are there now. At Wythogan Park three new benches have been installed along the walking path bringing the total to 10.

RE: 2015 BUDGET CALENDAR

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the 2015 Budget Calendar to the Council. He noted that he is required to present it to the DLGF field representative and it has been approved by him. Clerk-Treasurer Houston said the City has to be careful to meet the time limits for publications, hearing and adoption required by the state.

RE: 2015 BUDGET

Clerk-treasurer Houston presented the form ones of the budget for 2015 to the Council. He explained how he arrived at the budget presented. The rest of the forms are available for the council to see within his office. He would like to have any changes the Council wants by September 9th. The total budget is \$2,800,000.00. We are also participating in the pilot program this year with the county and the state to evaluate the impact of the circuit breaker law on local budgets.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that the audit by the SBOA has concluded and it was a pretty good audit. His department has also been working on the budget.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Matsey said the state statute has been changed regarding rental inspections. Registrations for rentals is capped at \$5.00 per unit or "rental community". Also, no inspection fee can be charged, however penalties may be charged if an inspection is the result of suspicion of a violation or a complaint is received. He will keep in touch with IACT with regard to how the statutes are being interpreted and enforced.

RE: MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Chambers handed out a flier about a program called "Indiana's Hardest Hit Fund". It is for homeowners who are having trouble paying their home mortgage.

Mayor Chambers said he had heard from a local port-a-pit chicken vendor that a local business owner told them that due to the new zoning ordinance, they are not allowed to sell in their parking lots any more. The Mayor said nothing in the new ordinance restricts that kind of business.

The water department has finished replacing three hydrants on Lake Street.

The City has hired a new crossing guard for the school. Her name is Iris Bau.

The application for Blighted Properties Grant is due in September, with Ann Manix.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Fire Chief Kenny Pfost said that the assistant fire Chief at New Carlisle was killed fighting a fire last Tuesday. The Knox Fire Department covered a 16 hour shift during the funeral for the firemen.

