

The Common council of the City of Knox met in regular session on Tuesday October 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST at the Knox City Hall with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Don Kring, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, Greg Matt, Linda Berndt 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. Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Don Kring to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tammy Guzman, owner of Guzman Jewelry in Knox came before the board to complain that their neighbor downtown is still causing them problems. Mayor Chambers said he and the Chief of Police will go over on Wednesday to evaluate the situation.

RE: RESOLUTION #917-2016 BUDGET ADOPTION

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented 2016 Budget Resolution #917 to the Council. He said this is only an estimate of what will be needed for the rest of 2015 and all of 2016.

The Clerk-Treasurer said he had recently been in contact with the field representative from the DLGF and Starke County's budgets will be done second in the state, so we will probably hear from them before the end of the year about how much the first round of cuts will be the second round of cuts will come in April after the circuit breaker credits are computed.

Greg Matt made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to approve Resolution #917 - 2016 Budget. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CORRECTION ON 2016 COUNCIL MEETING RATES AND HOLIDAY DATES

Clerk-Treasurer Houston said that the 2016 general election day should be listed as November 8th, so that should be listed as the City Holiday.

City Council meeting date should be moved from November 8th to Wednesday November 9th. Also the December council dates should be listed as December 13th and December 27th.

Linda Berndt made a motion seconded by Don Kring to make those changes. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 2015 CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

Mayor Chambers said there is money in his office budget for the Christmas decorating contest. The awards would be first place \$100.00, second place \$50.00 and third place \$25.00. Linda Berndt made a motion seconded by Don Kring to approve the expenditures. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT - EDIT FUNDS

Mayor Chambers said he is about to close on seven homes that are part of the blight elimination program. He is waiting on inspections for two more. It will cost about \$13,000.00 per home to purchase and demolish them and then get reimbursed by the state.

Greg Matt made a motion to spend up to \$129,000.00 out of Edit money on the project. Reimbursed money would be put back into the fund. Motion was seconded by Linda Berndt. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston reported that he and one of his employees are meeting with a representative from the employee insurance broker. About shopping for a new carrier because Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield is raising rates by 17.4% next year.

RE: MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Chambers said there were some issues at Serenity Gardens Park with the sidewalks not being ADA compliant. The bricks have been removed and will be replaced and leveled. Regular sidewalks were poured and curbs cut. Electric will be installed and a sprinkler system has been donated and will also be installed.

The Mayor is having the intersection of Pearl and Potter Street inspected by the Police Department and Street Department to see if a stop sign is needed.

The Street Department has applied for a grant for railroad crossing markings. Traffic Control Specialists has put a bid in to do the work to do 9 crossings at \$756 a crossing, for a total of \$6,804.00.

An eight inch water line broke at Selected Furniture for their sprinkler system. It was difficult to track down the line.

John Julian from Umbaugh will be at the next council meeting to present the rate study. Mayor Chambers stated that he does not know if he will be at the meeting. The Mayor has asked Sewer Superintendent, Kelly Clemons and Water Superintendent, Todd Gardner to be present.

