

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday March 27, 2018 in the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Ron Parker, Don Kring, Bertha Blue, Jeff Berg, and City Attorney, Leslie Baker. Mayor, Dennis Estok and Councilmember Tim Manns were absent.

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. Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #1165 – AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE 2018 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Packets were provided to the Councilmembers that included Ordinance #1165 and the proposed timetable for the General Obligation Bond Issue.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston explained that Financial Advisor Umbaugh and Bond Council Ice Miller suggested having a first reading and vote on both Ordinances.

There can be no final vote until after the advertisement of the additional appropriation and public hearing. The final vote would take place April 24, 2018. The bond is for pumper vehicle for emergency use equipped with a fire pump of 750 gallons per minute with a water tank and hose whose primary purpose is to combat structural and associated fires.

Jeff Berg made a motion seconded by Bertha Blue to approve Ordinance #1165 on first reading. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: ORDINANCE #1166 – APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE 2018 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Included in the board packets was Ordinance #1166 – Appropriation for the 2018 General Obligation Bonds. Clerk-Treasurer Houston told the Council that the interest rate on the bonds will probably vary, but should be about 5% more or less on about \$650,000.00 of debt. This debt is outside of the maximum levy. Don Kring made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to approve Ordinance #1166 on first reading. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: NEPOTISM AND CONTRACTING CERTIFICATIONS

Clerk-Treasurer Jeff Houston told the Council that all elected officials are required to sign a conflict of interest and nepotism certification each year.

They were presented to the Council to be signed. He also reported that the City had used Arctic Air owned by Councilman Don Kring to repair the heating unit at the Police Department. He would be paid in the vouchers passed during this meeting.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the fund report to the Council. He gave a report to the fiscal body on the Redevelopment Commission and the TIF districts. The report included the Commissioners names, revenues and expenditures by category as well as final balances for the year of 2017.

Friday, March 23 the Bluegrass Jam was held at the Nancy J. Dembowski Community Center. It raised food and donations for the Community Services Organization. The event was well attended.

A meeting was held on March 1st at the SCEDF that included the County, City, Towns and schools that outlined funding for local government and analysis of assessed value. Both the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer attended. One take away from the report that was given showed that in 2017 the tax caps cost the City of Knox \$258,156.00. It is projected to be a loss of \$564,374.00 by 2025. The County stands to lose 2.4 million.

A retreat was held on March 13th that the Mayor, Councilmembers Jeff Berg and the Clerk-Treasurer attended at the Starke County Economic Development Foundation. The state is emphasizing the quality of place as a tool of economic development. Good schools, safe and livable communities and recreational amenities are the kind of things that people want in their choice of residence. In other words jobs follow people instead of people following jobs.

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

A brief discussion took place about the possibility of buying a sign for the entrance to the City. Questions were raised about placement of the sign, how tall would it be, electrical hook up, controls and other options available. No official action was taken.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

Fire Chief Kenneth Pfost distributed a breakdown by major incident types of the activities of the Fire Department for the last four months. It was noted that about 55% of their activities were rescue and emergency medical service calls. This is in keeping with most other similar size fire departments. The fire department only assists with medical calls when requested by the EMT's.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #25331 - #25391 inclusive) were presented and approved. Voucher

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer