

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok, Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder, Council Members Jeff Berg, Sherry Cowen, Bill Gustafson and Jaime Gruszczynski. Don Kring was absent.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Estok asked to move citizens comments down 2 spots on the Agenda to 5A. Jeff Berg made a motion approving the agenda adjustment. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES 8/26/25

Copies of the previous meeting's minutes were mailed to the Council prior to the meeting for their review. Jeff Berg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jamie Gruszczynski and was passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SCEDF – PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT UPDATE FOR CITY OF KNOX

Janice Hernandez, president of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation Committee spoke to the Council. She spoke of things they have done for the City of Knox and Starke County over the past year. Council Member Gustafson asked about the possibility of the hotel still coming to the City. Mrs. Hernandez stated not right now.

RE: CITIZENS COMMENTS

A citizen Keith Bailey spoke to the Council about Code Enforcement and his concerns with basic yard maintenance.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 2026 BUDGET

Mayor Estok opened the public hearing. There were no questions concerning the 2026 Budget, from the Council or the audience. Mayor Estok closed the public hearing. Sherry Cowen made a motion approving the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Jamie Gruszczynski and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PLAN COMMISSIONS FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 700 SQUARE FOOT - TWO STORY - TWO MILE JURISDICTION

Mayor Estok presented the Plan Commission's Favorable Recommendation to amend the ordinance for dwelling square footage for two-mile jurisdiction, for 700 square foot footprint with minimum of 1400 square foot for two story home to the Council. Jeff Berg made a motion to accept the Plan Commission's Favorable Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Sherry Cowen and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PLAN COMMISSIONS UNFAVORABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHICKEN AND RABBITS FOR CITY LIMITS AND TWO-MILE JURISDICTION (ORD 958)

Mayor Estok presented the Plan Commission's Unfavorable Recommendation to Not Amend Ordinance #958 to the Council. Jeff Berg made a motion to deny amending Ordinance #958 which aligns with the Plan Commission's Unfavorable Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by Three (3) ayes and One (1) nay, from Jamie Gruszczynski.

RE: STOP SIGN REQUEST – WASHINGTON AND MCGILL STREET – ON MCGILL SIDE

Mayor Estok presented the Citizen request to the Council. Short discussion was held. Sherry Cowen made a motion approving the stop signs to be involved to help with speed control and public safety. The motion was seconded by Bill Gustafson and passed by a vote of Four (4) ayes and NO (0) nays.

RE: MAYORS REPORT

- 1) Fall Bash – It went well, it was a little chilly this year. The attendance was down; the bands were great!

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember Jamie Gruszczynski spoke to the Council and Mayor giving Officer Matt Borkholder kudos for being a great officer.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (See Voucher #38408-38461) were presented and approved.

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

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Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer