

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met for a regular session at the Knox City Hall on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 9:30 AM CST. With the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok, Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder, Board Members Steve Dodge, Jim Collins and City Attorney Justin Schramm.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Line item 8A needs added to the meeting agenda. Steve Dodge made a motion approving the agenda addition. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 8/27/25

Minutes of the previous regular meeting were mailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting for their review. Steve Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Street Superintendent Jeff Borg informed the Board that his crew has been working on road crack sealing, fixing parts on power equipment, prepping for the street paving with the CCMG.

Water Superintendent Tim Lindewald informed the Board they have prepared a water main leak in the alley between Main and Shield Street. The water crew have also installed a new pit at 603 E Washington, repaired a broken fire hydrant and did locates for NIPSCO on Short Drive and Henry Drive. They also completed monthly water tests, closed the splash pad, shop maintenance, mowing, weed eating, locates, work orders and changed 9 meters.

Sewer Superintendent Jason Clemons informed the Board that the sewer crew has completed cleaning all 13 lift stations. Superintendent Clemons was over seeing a sewer lateral repair for 305 Clark Street being done by Hills. Berry IT bored through their sewer line. He also emailed Jason Slonaker with Surf pictures of the damage to their Surf lines. The sewer crew located an existing sewer lateral for the new build on John Street and found the sewer main was starting to back up. They videoed the line and root cut 660 feet of sewer main. A new blower was installed, and the old one is being serviced. 28,500 gallons of liquid biosolids were transferred to the reed beds. The new Sentinel Pro Plant Alarm is installed.

Chief of Police Chad Dulin informed the Board in the past month they have done 134 business checks, 98 extra patrols, 19 suspicious people, 78 traffic stops and several others for a total of 704 calls. This includes 11 arrests.

Building and Code Compliance Director Lonnie Boley updated the Board on Lake Street Zink property. The next court date is October 6th. This property has been a battle.

RE: KNOX MAIN STREET UNITED

Julie Dessauer, owner of Papa Farm Pizza asked the Board for their approval to extend their dining area with a 20 x 20 tent covering the sidewalk and into the street to provide a bar tent area for the Knoxtober Event on October 4th. Jim

Collins made a motion approving the extension of the dining area for the Knoxtober Fest. The motion seconded by Steve Dodge and passed by Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. The festival organizers asked to use the yellow barricades to block the streets on that day. They will give a count of barricades needed to the Mayor.

RE: BID OPENING FOR THE 2009 DODGE CHARGER POLICE CAR

For bids were received on time. Mayor Estok opened the bids:

1 – Jim Collins	\$1,501.00
2 – Chuck Wieringa	\$ 800.00
3 – Jason Garbas	\$1,001.00
4 – Colleen Henning	\$ 621.00

Board member Jim Collins abstained from voting on this motion. Mayor Estok made a motion awarding the bid to the highest bidder. The motion was seconded by Steve Dodge and passed by a vote of Two (2) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SPECIAL LEAK ADJUSTMENT – 314 CARLSON DRIVE

Knox Citizen Tracy Bailey came before the Board requesting a special leak adjustment for her water bill at 314 Carlson Drive. She received a bill with high-water consumption and Utility Clerk Cheryl Runkle had the Water Department do a leak check and a data log on July 27 for the residence. She had a leak; a plumber was hired to fix it. A second water heater was found in the crawl space that she was unaware of, and it was leaking. The water heater was replaced and that fixed her leak on August 29th. The leak adjustment for both bills will be approximately \$250.00 depending on the October bill. Steve Dodge made a motion approving the approximated special leak adjustment. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 16 N PEARL PARKING REQUEST

The new owners of 16 N Pearl came before the Board requesting a parking spot in front of the house tagged for her only due to serious medical issues she is having. A discussion was held; Mayor Estok will have the Street Superintendent check it out.

RE: 53 W LAKE STREET – REVIEW

The owner was present. The Owner is following the timeline he set up with Director Boley. No action taken.

RE: 45 W LAKE STREET – REVIEW

The owners son was present; he informed the Board that both his parents are elderly and ill. He reassured the Board that there are 2 apartments upstairs and commercial space only downstairs. The upstairs apartments are both rented at this time. No action taken at this time.

RE: 1 AND 3 N MAIN STREET – REVIEW FINES

The owner was present; he completed his rental registration. Director Boley is still waiting for 3 tenants smoke detector paperwork. The owner informed the Boad 3 tenants are dog owners, and he has issued lease amendments to each of them stating they must comply with all local ordinances. Due to issues with the owners letting their dogs use Serenity Park and City tree areas as a waste dump, the owner

has \$600.00 in fines accumulated. Mayor Estok told the owners son that the Board will put the fines on hold for now to see how the tenants behave with the waste amendments to their leases. No action was taken at this time and the Boad wants an update report at the October meeting.

RE: 705 E NEW YORK STREET – REVIEW

The owner was not present, he has not followed any orders or set up any timeline with Director Boley as ordered on August 27, 2026. Mayor Estok made a motion to issue the \$5,000.00 Civil Penalty. The motion was seconded by Steve Dodge and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: GOLDEN ACRES/HICKORY RECOVERY – REVIEW FINES

Director Boley updated the Board on the property where Hickory Recovery plans to open in October, a residential drug rehab center. The owners were not present due to a religious holiday. The business has fines accumulating from several violations. Mayor Estok made a motion approving an emergency injunction to be filed by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 101 S MCGILL – REVIEW CONTINUED

Director Boley updated the Board on the status of this property. The owner and his adult daughter were present. The owner's request to drop the dog and rabbit penalties was discussed. Jim Collins made a motion to dismiss the dog related parts of the violation fees. The motion was seconded by Mayor Estok and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. The 30 rabbits issue was discussed. The owners daughter refuses to get rid of her rabbits. Steve Dodge made a motion to not dismiss the \$1,500.00 fine for the rabbits plus Mayor Estok added to the motion for them to work with Director Boley to rehome the rabbits within 6 months. The motion was seconded by Mayor Estok and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 406 W ELM – REIVEW

Director Boley updated the Board on the progress of the previous orders given by the board to the owner of this property. Previous orders from the Board have not been completed. The owner was not present. Mayor Estok made a motion to apply the Civil Penalty of \$2,500.00 for being willfully non-compliant. The motion was seconded by Steve Dodge and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

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

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer