

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session Tuesday August 13, 2019 in the Knox City Hall at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Mayor, Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Ron Parker, Jeff Berg, William Gustafson, Don Kring and City Attorney, Autumn Ferch. Councilmember, Bertha Blue was absent.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Bill Gustafson made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to add "Cancellation of August 27th Council Meeting" to the agenda. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to the Councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Ron Parker made a motion seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: CANCELLATION OF AUGUST 27TH MEETING

William Gustafson made a motion, seconded by Jeff Berg to cancel the August 27th Common Council Meeting. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: RESOLUTION #2019-RE15 - ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR CONSTELLATION OF STARKE

Mayor Estok explained Resolution #2019-RE15 to the Council. He noted that if Constellation of Starke is awarded, the City would need to commit up to \$100,000.00 each year for four years. The amount should come in a little lower. The money will probably come out of CEDIT. He passed out a project list:

KNOX STELLAR PROJECTS

1. Streetscape (Intersection Paint Design, Banners, Wayfinding Signage, Curbs)
2. Downtown Façade (Renovate Store Fronts to Original)
3. Park Improvements (New Pavilion, Parking Lot, Lights, Addition to Maintenance Buildings)
4. Dog Park
5. Fire Station Addition (2 Bays)
6. Housing

Jeff Berg made a motion, seconded by Ron Parker to approve Resolution #2019-RE15. Motion passed with Four (4) ayes and No (0) nays.

RESOLUTION #2019-RE15

CITY OF KNOX COMMON COUNCIL
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS CONTINGENT UPON
THE COUNTY OF STARKE BEING SELECTED
AS A STELLAR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX OF STARKE COUNTY, INDIANA has authorized and supported the participation of City of Knox in a regional team application seeking Stellar Community designation from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs ("OCRA"). The regional team, branded as the Constellation of Starke ("COS") includes the four municipalities covering the County of Starke, Indiana: (1) the City of Knox, the towns of (2) North Judson and (3) Hamlet, and (4) Starke County, participating behalf of all unincorporated areas of Starke County.

On the basis of its Letter of Intent ("LOI") COS Stellar bid has heretofore been selected by OCRA as one of four finalists for the 2019 Stellar Community designation. Final preparation of the COS Stellar Community Regional Development Plan is now underway.

The COS Stellar Community Development plan has been developed with substantial public consultation and input through meetings and surveys, active participation of community leaders, and consultation with experts, officials and academics throughout the State of Indiana. This process produced a consensus for a shared vision of the future of the COS region centered on an aggressive program of investments in community improvements to leverage the COS region's outstanding natural resources, including lakes and rivers, to improve and modernize housing for all income levels, to improve social cohesion through flexible modern community facilities, healthful outdoor activities, and a network of trails, revitalize downtown districts, to address the needs of families and to combat the scourge of substance abuse and help heal the many families who have been affected by it.

The Common Council of the City of Knox, being duly advised, strongly supports the goals and plan of action set forth in the COS Stellar Community Regional Development Plan, and supports the commitment of resources necessary to implementing the plan to rapidly and dramatically transform and improve the quality of life and attractiveness of the City of Knox and Starke County for residents, property owners and visitors alike.

WHEREAS the COS Stellar Community Regional Development Plan envisions substantial investments in the community, primarily from federal funds, but also requires the allocation of local resources, including local matching funds in the amount of approximately 20%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Knox that: The Common Council of the City of Knox hereby supports and directs that the COS Stellar Community Regional Development Plan be submitted to OCRA before the September deadline;

AND, FURTHER RESOLVED the Common Council authorizes the COS Executive Committee to apply for the Stellar Community Designation and receive funding and/or tax credits or incentives, subsequent to this designation from the Indiana Department of Transportation ("INDOT"), the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs ("OCRA"), and the Indiana State Department of Health ("ISDH"), and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Knox, or his designee, is hereby, authorized, empowered and directed to execute, acknowledge, and deliver in the City's name and on its behalf, all applications, award agreements, documents, instruments, or writings, as are necessary and/or appropriate to consummate the COS Stellar Community application and receipt of any subsequent funding or commitments; and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that contingent upon the COS being designated as the Stellar Community Designee during or about December 2019, the Knox Common Council hereby commits and allocates local match funds in the maximum amount of \$400,000.00, and not to exceed 20% of total expenditures on Stellar Community projects actually funded and built. This allocation shall be divided into four equal annual installments of a maximum of \$100,000 per year for each of the following years: 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Nothing herein shall preclude the City from entering into cooperative intergovernmental agreements with other members of or contributors to the

COS regional team, but any such agreement shall be in writing and approved by the executive body of each municipality that will participate in the agreement.

THE KNOX COMMON COUNCIL HEREBY REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDS that the City of Knox consider and after due deliberation approve and join in the contingent commitments set forth herein.

ALL OF WHICH IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City of Knox Common Council, and approved on this ____ Day of August 2019, by the following vote:

Council:

Ron Parker, Council President

Bertha Blue, Councilmember

Jeff Berg, Councilmember

Don Kring, Councilmember

William Gustafson, Councilmember

Approved by: _____
Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston reported that he has been working on the Stellar Community Grant Applications. The Blight Elimination Grant has sent the City a final check for \$8,000.00. That grant will now be closed out. The close out paperwork has been in for the Community Crossings Grant for 2019. No problems have been reported.

The Gateway Committee recently met and re-organized. The City has recently accepted the land, buildings and caboose. They will be going over the by laws and redefining the relationship between the Committee and the City. The Committee will act as an Advisory Committee and help apply for grants and protect the historical aspects of the building.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor noted that the City will be selling off some of the properties acquired under the Blight Elimination Grant. It will go through the Board of Public Works and Safety. The properties in Parkview won't be sold off as they may be used in the future as a match for any further construction grants in the area.

A pre-bid meeting for the Wastewater Treatment Project will be held at 10:00 AM Friday August 16th at the plant. Citizens are welcome to attend.

The City will soon be bidding out work on Five (5) homes that have been approved for the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant Program.

Local contractors are welcome to bid on such jobs as roofs, electrical and plumbing, however there is a 30 to 90 day wait for payment. Five more homes are about ready to be approved also.

American Graffiti Night is Saturday night at the Park with a cruise in and the Academy Award winning movie. Quentin Flagg will perform at 5:30 PM, Movie at 8:00 PM.

The recent visit by the Neuter Scooter was a big success with about 180 cats done.

Anyone interested in Pickleball can play every Thursday night at the park at 5:30 PM.

RE: CITIZEN COMMENTS

Local Citizen, Sherry Cowen initiated a general discussion about the plusses and minuses of the City or County purchasing the old Moose Lodge Building.

RE: STELLAR COMMUNITIES MEETING

There will be a Stellar Communities Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Knox Community Center on August 21st according to Jacqui Ryan.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket, Voucher #27653 - #27762 inclusive) were presented and approved.

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