The Common Council of the City of Kokomo, Indiana met Monday November 9th, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by President Hayes.

Invocation was offered by Rev. Dr. William J. Smith Jr. from the Second Missionary Baptist Church

Pledge by: Ross Waltemath from the Howard County Veterans Service Office.

Present: Wyant, Cameron, Young, Haworth, Kennedy, Hayes, Summers, Sanders, Miklik

Absent: None

The minutes of the October 26th, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes were declared approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Hayes states, it is my understanding that soon we will be the second largest Veteran Service Office in the State; that says something well for our communities and how our veterans are being treated.

I was honored and privileged to attend today at lunch a new development for downtown Kokomo; White’s Meat Market is taking over the old building of Walgreens. Several Council Members were there to witness the grand opening.

Councilman Summers states, it is with great honor to be able to introduce a speaker this evening. I had the privilege of attending our Veterans Program this morning when we honored our Veterans in our Community. I would like to introduce Mr. Ross Waltemath. Ross is our Local Veterans Coordinator for our Community.
Cont. Communications.
Ross Waltemath states, first of all I want to thank the Mayor’s office and the Council for the proclamation. It is a wonderful way opening up the military appreciation week. Every year for military appreciation the foundation looks for an honorably chairman; and this year’s honorably chairman is Women in the Military; we figured it was about time that we started doing an effort of making a greater community awareness of what women are doing in our military.
Right now there are over 203,000 women on active duty; 53,000 in the Navy, 62,000 in the Air-force, 14,000 in the Marine Coor, 74,000 in the Army that are on active duty.
There are currently 69 Generals and Admirals that are females on active duty. We are pushing close to 30% of the reserve filled by women in the military. We have 477,000 veterans in Indiana, almost 80,000 are women. In Howard County alone we have somewhere between a 1000-1500 that are in Howard County are women veterans.
We want to start letting our community know there is no job in the military that a women cannot do. This week we are focusing on our women in our community. There are a lot of needs that women have that are not being met. We need an all women support group. I would like to make a request out to you, right now the women are only 20% of the military I am only seeing about 1 in 50 coming in my office for VA benefits and support; so we need get that word out that this community does open our arms out to the female veterans. Those of us that live in the veteran’s world take care of veterans. Kokomo takes cares of veterans. Thank you for your time.

Councilman Miklik states, I would like to make a note Kernel Waltemath is retiring full Kernel from the Army after thirty years of service, and I have had the pleasure of serving with him.
Cont. Communications.
Councilwoman Young states, my daughter is one of those veterans. She had served in the Army.

There were no committee reports given at the regular meeting.

ORDINANCE 6810: AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 215 SOUTH PHILLIPS STREET KOKOMO, INDIANA AS AN HISTORIC SITE IN THE CITY OF KOKOMO
First reading

Ordinance 6810 was read by the Clerk by title only. Councilman Cameron moved for suspension of the rules and pass ordinance #6810 on first and second reading; seconded by Councilman Wyant. Vote for suspension of the rules:
Aye: All
Nay: None
The vote was 9 to 0 for suspension of the rules.

Councilman Cameron moved for passage on ordinance #6810 on second reading; seconded by Councilman Kennedy.

Councilman Cameron states, the Historic Society has designated the home at 215 S. Phillips Street. This home was built in the Colonial Revival style, and inside has stayed the same. They called this house the Old Whitacre House. Mr. Whitacre had a grocery store here, and during the depression he traded work for food to help his neighbors. Donald and Gail Beaton own it now. They purchased it in 1973. It was also the first Designer Show Home in 1983.
Cont. Ordinance #6810.
Vote for passage follows:
Aye: All
Nay: None
The vote was 9 to 0 for passage on first and second reading.

RESOLUTION 2680: A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOKOMO, INDIANAL, HONORING RALPH BAER, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF KOKOMO AND HOWARD COUNTY
Resolution 2680 was read by the Clerk by title only. Councilman Summers moved for passage on resolution #2680; seconded by Councilman Haworth.
Councilman Summers states, it gives me great honor and privilege to be able to recognize a man that has given so much to our community. He reads the entire Resolution Honoring Ralph Baer.

President Hayes states, State Representative Mike Karickhoff could not make it tonight; he had pressing family matters. He did send a letter and asked me to read this into the records on your behalf. The letter was titled (Ralph Baer leaves Kokomo as a true public servant statesman).

Honorable Mayor Goodnight states, Council President Hayes, Members of the Common Council thank you very much for passing that resolution to a well-deserved person. I always enjoyed serving with you Councilman Baer, and I also respected you. I always admired the way you presented yourself, and the way you represented this Community from your various Boards; but especially from our time on the Common Council.
Cont. Resolution #2680.
Thank you for doing this to such a great man. I have always looked up to you, and I have always considered you a friend. I mean that. Thank you.

Ralph Baer states, this was a real pleasant surprise. I had no idea. My daughter was probably in on it. One big reason I hate to leave this City; setting right here. I have enjoyed every minute of it. When I took over in 1997 from Mike Ricci he had two years to go, and Trobaugh invited me to take over the two years, I got hooked and stayed. The pleasure has been working with the City of Kokomo, and people like you and previous Council Members too. You people have been very kind and gentle and I appreciate the words.

Councilman Wyant states, I set on the City Council with Ralph for nine years; when I first came on here Ralph guided me the right way. This man taught me a lot, and I want to thank you for that.

Greg Sheline states, Ralph and I served eight years together on the City Council. It has been a pleasure knowing you, and working with you.

Craig Severns states, it’s a privilege to come here and be with Ralph and Council. I go way back with Ralph & Jeannie. My parents were actually very good friends of theirs in high school. I have had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time with them. Ralph is truly a gentleman. He has been a great friend and neighbor.

Councilman Summers states, I would like to recognize Ralph’s daughter, Melody; for being in town and helping out. We appreciate her coming over.
Cont. Resolution #2680.
President Hayes states, good luck, God’s Blessing, Gods Feet go with you. I think we can all set up here and say you broke the mold.

Vote for passage follows:
Aye: All
Nay: None
The vote was 9 to 0 for passage.

President Hayes states this marks the end of this Council Meeting; and our next Council Meeting will be November 23rd, 2015 with an Informational Meeting at 5:30 P.M. in the Louks Room; and Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Adjourned at 6:30 P.M.  

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PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK