The Common Council of the City of Kokomo, Indiana met Monday September 26th, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers for the purpose of a Public Hearing on Ordinance #6840, Ordinance #6842, and Ordinance #6843.

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

Absent: None

President Hayes called for any comments from the audience, hearing none the Public Hearing was adjourned.

The Common Council of the City of Kokomo, Indiana met Monday September 26th 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by President Hayes.

President Hayes states, those who wish to stand may stand, or you may remain seated.

Invocation was offered by Father David Huemmer from St. Pats Church.

Pledge: Tyler Seward led us in pledge.
Present: Wyant, Cameron, Young, Haworth, Kennedy, Hayes, Whikehart, Sanders, Miklik

Absent: None

The minutes of the Public Hearing & Council Meeting Minutes September 12th, 2016 were declared approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Hayes states, Ordinance #6840 which is the Budget will be on the Agenda for the October 17th, 2016 Council Meeting for second reading; which is the final reading.

President Hayes states, we have a special person in the audience, I ask him to come forward, and give us his name, and why he is here.

Tyler Seward states, I am here to fill-out a paper for a Badge; so I can get my Eagle Scout. Tyler also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jake Lipinski states, I am the Vice President of Professional Fire Fighters Local 396. I live at 6702 W 00 NS Kokomo, Ind. We are here tonight to discuss MDA with the Council. We have been told this year due to Safety Concerns that we are not able to get into the streets. We have some concerns about this. We are very disappointed with it. Every year we collect thousands of dollars. The last few years have been about $22,000 a year; which is a tremendous amount of money. This benefits twenty-two families here locally. That money sends them to camp; does all kinds of different things. After repeated attempts to trying to discuss this with our Fire Administration, and also with the City Administration we thought we would bring it to you.
Cont. Communications.
We have some people here who traveled a long way from Illinois. They are Representatives from MDA. If you would be applied to let them speak for a few minutes, and tell you why MDA is so important to these children; and why it is so important for our Community; so that we can get out there in the streets. I know you can-not make the decision; but after hearing this you will see how important it is, and why we really need to do it.

Councilman Wyant asks, who said you could not go in the street, and do this?

Jake Lipinski states, we were told by Chief Clover, that we are not going to be able to be in the streets this year to collect this money. I have called, and left messages for David Tharp. I get return phone calls only from our Chief. I have not been able to speak to anybody in the City Administration. I would love that opportunity; but if you could hear the information tonight that they have for you it is pretty persuasive.

Councilman Wyant asks, has anybody from Kokomo ever got hurt in the street collecting money for MDA?

Jake Lipinski states, not to my acknowledge. They decided different safety concerns; but we are very safe about it. We have signs up everywhere. The week before we go on the radio, and let them know we are going to be out in the streets. People know us, and know we are there. They know the time of year. The time of year has come and gone now; but we still want the opportunity to do it. We could do it here in the fall; raising $22,000 for MDA is very important to them, and to this Community.
Cont. Communications.
Kate Shea states, I am the Divisional Director with the MDA Association 550 E. Boughton Road Bolingbrook Illinois 60440. I work with our offices in the State of Indiana, and the State of Illinois. I appreciate the opportunity to come, and speak with you. We want to take the opportunity to express to the City how important not only the work for the Fire Fighters but the contributions of the City, and the work that we do for MDA. For more than sixty-two years Fire Fighters have been supporting MDA through the Fill of Boot campaign. This year alone we anticipate about $25 Million Dollars will be raised in funds through the Fill of Boot efforts. It is very much a Community effort. The Fire Fighters taking their time to go out, and pound the pavement, and hit the streets; but obviously the generously of the members of the Community are really what makes the difference in putting the dollars in the boots.

Over the past 25-30 years we went back, and tried to trace how much funds have been raised through the City of Kokomo. Our records only went back to five years; but just in five years we have raised over $111,000. These funds are vital for us. We provide local services to the families that live here in Howard County alone. We have about 22 families. In Northern Indiana we have about 650 families that we support thru our local services, and thru our MDA Care Centers. Our MDA summer camp provides camp for kid’s ages 6 to 17. Most importantly just last week we had a break thru. The FDA finally improved a treatment for one of the diseases for young men. This is the first time this has ever happen for us in our Community; which really propels us to see the difference that were making.
Cont. Communications.

We have had 60 years of support that we have seen from efforts like our Fire Fighters thru Fill the Boot. This is the impact; we are getting a drug in the hands of people, and slowing down a fatal disease. This is the progress we are making. It would not be possible if not for the work to Fill the Boot. The support of these Communities that we have here. Fill the Boot goes on Nation Wide. We have about a 100,000 Fire Fighters that go out on the streets annually. Between the years 2009-2014 we had four incidents of minor injure that were reported. We work very closely with all of our Fire Fighters in making sure that we have safety per-cautions in-place to ensure for the safety of them, for the safety of the community, and everyone involved.

Councilman Wyant asks is there any other City in the State that has done this; not let them collect?

Kate Shea states, we have some that chose not to; just out of interest from the Department.

Sonja Cronin states, I am the Executive Director for Northern Indiana. I am based out of Fort Wayne Indiana. We have 22 local families here in Howard County. We have 650 families just in Northern Indiana alone. I have had the opportunity to work with these families every-day. I can-not tell you what it means for these Fire Fighters to get behind these families. These kids look at them as life-savers. The parents look at them as support groups. They open their arms to our family’s year around. They join our kids at camp. It is a week they get to fill like a normal kid; and it is because of these Fire Fighters doing what they do. Filling the Boot allows them to have this. What they do is vital not only for us as an organization, but to this community, and the support they provide.
Cont. Communications.
Randy Morris, City Controller states, the fact that they stated that the Administration had not got with them. I would like to clarify the position. The City Administration is hugely in favor of the MDA of Boot campaign. We strongly support all the efforts that they do. We are just encouraging them to do it from the side-walk; and not the middle of the street; and if that is not the message that was related, that is the message that needs to be relayed here. It needs to be done. We understand the need. The Administration supports the need; however we believe strongly it needs to be done from the sidewalk. There was a death in Lansing Michigan; and there was also an injury in Louisiana.

Councilman Wyant asks, so they can stand on the sidewalk, and when cars drive by they can collect the money for MDA? You just do not want them in the center of the street?

Randy Morris states, absolutely; just not in the center of the street.

Councilman Wyant states, I appreciate you clearing that up.

Councilman Kennedy states, MDA is a great Organization; but just understand we do not have any control over this. It is an Administrative decision; so regardless what I think, it does not make any difference. I would support your efforts; but I am not the one making the calls. Hopefully you will be able to do that from the sidewalk.

President Hayes states, I echo want Councilman Kennedy said. First thing I thought was Jerry’s Kids. I know the good work that you do. I have relatives that suffer from this. We have no control over that. It was an Administrative decision; however you did accomplish; the press is here tonight.
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Cont. Communications.
I am sure they are going to want to talk to you. We did get an explanation from the City Controller why they are doing it. Rather we agree with it or dis-agree with it we have no control over it. I think everyone of us has different opinions. God Bless you for what all of you are doing; and these families here in Howard County that are very thankful. It speaks well of our City that you can raise that kind of money on a street corner. That is amazing.

Councilman Wyant states, I am in the collection business to at Christmas time. I think if people want to give they will come back, and give to you. I think you will still collect a lot of money.

Kate Shea states, there was a death in Lansing Michigan last year; which was very, very tragic. It did occur while Fill the Boot activity was happening. It was an act of road-rage. It was not because of some kind of incident due to safety practices, it was basically an act of a crazy person.

Jake Lipinski states, I appreciate you giving us the opportunity to come up here, and speak tonight. I know you said you could not make a decision; and I completely understand. We are giving this information one to get it out that this is an issue. If you do believe in this, and believe in what we are doing and think it is the right thing to do; then use your power persuasion talk to people. This case is certainly not closed for us. We want to continue doing what we have done in the past. We think it is a wonderful thing.

There were no committee reports given at this regular meeting.
ORDINANCE 6842:

Additional Appropriation from the LOIT Special Distribution Fund in the amount of $650,000

Second reading

Ordinance 6842 was read by the Clerk by title only. Councilman Kennedy moved for passage on ordinance #6842 on second reading; seconded by Councilman Wyant.

Councilman Kennedy states, ordinance 6842 is an additional appropriations from the Local Option Income Tax Special Distribution Fund for the work that is being done on Washington Street. Also for work that will be done on Home Ave; in the amount of $650,000. I move for Council to pass this ordinance on second reading.

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

ORDINANCE 6843:

Additional Appropriation from The Southeast Tiff Fund in the amount of $450,000

Second reading

Ordinance 6843 was read by the Clerk by title only. Councilman Kennedy moved for passage on ordinance #6843 on second reading; seconded by Councilman Whikehart.

Councilman Kennedy states, this particular appropriation is for $450,000 from the Tax Increment Financing District, which will be used to purchase a new Fire Engine. I move for Council to pass this on second reading.
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Cont. Ordinance #6843.
Vote for passage follows:
Aye: All
Nay: None
The vote was 9 to 0 for passage on second reading.

President Hayes states, this marks the end of this Council Meeting, and our next Council Meeting will be October 17th, 2016 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 6:25 P.M.                                PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK