The Common Council of the City of Kokomo, Indiana met Monday July 13th, 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 Councilwoman Sanders.

Pledge:

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

Absent: None

The minutes of the June 29th, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes were declared approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Hayes states, before we get to our Department Heads to talk to us; I would like to ask is there anyone on the Council or anyone in the audience has any communications?

Jerry Paul, Webster Street Kokomo, Ind. states, I am the President of the Howard County Veterans Memorial Corporation. We have taken over the Tank in Foster Park. Somebody had to step forward and do this and I think were the perfect group to do it since we are Memorial Corporation. It is going to take $16,500.00 just to strip it down. We need everybody on board. This is a Community effort. We need your help and spread the word.

Greg Sheline, Executive Director of Kokomo Howard County Plan Commission; I have a hand-out that I want to pass out to you. We have a list of items that have caught my attention in the past few months that have come thru my office.
Cont. Communications. They are as follows: (1). $76,081,427 in private new investment in the last 18 months. (2). this is a 21% increase over the previous 18 months (3). These figures do Not include investments that do not require permits (fences, roofing facades, landscaping). (4). largest growth in my tenure (started Sept of 2010) (5). new development, (6). This is not concentrated in one part of the city; this private investment is happening everywhere in our city, (7). Developers are now calling us. Obviously the word is getting out what is going on in Kokomo, not just thru-out the State but thru-out the Country. These numbers are huge.

Councilman Summers asks, in reference to the housing seeing some of our areas during our recession time that stayed vacate.

Greg Sheline states, Fredrick Farms, Walnut Estates are starting to get a lot of new builds in both of those additions. In 2010 we gave out 4 permits for new houses. We gave out 6 permits last Thursday; that shows you how things are progressing thru-out the city.

David Tharp, Development Specialist for the City, I gave you some hand-outs before the meeting; three news articles from around the State. Talking about some of the policies that are directly tied to those growth numbers. Those are polices now that other cities are looking to Kokomo. The one specifically in front of you are the Riverfront Liquor Licenses. Noblesville is actually about 5-6 years behind the City of Kokomo in terms of how to develop. This is something you stepped forward on and very supported on. We have seen the growth, and seen new businesses open, new investments, and not just tied to the liquor licenses but tied with really the entire district as a whole as a destination. The other two articles are about two-way streets. One from Muncie and one from Anderson.
Cont. Communications.
They are a part of a group of 6 to 8 cities around the States that are about to convert majority of their downtown streets to two-way streets. They are litterly coming here to find out how you and the administration did this. When you look at the two-way streets the important thing to note from a leadership stand-point that you have is not just two-way streets, it’s the entire package for how to re-due your downtown streetscapes. It’s talking about making sure that the downtown is pedestrians invite friendly and still allows car traffic to move thru. Those policies and the investment that Mr. Sheline talked about those things happen because they are building off of each other. This Council has prided itself on being a very bipartisan Council. These are Democrat and Republican Mayors coming over here to learn how you have accomplished this; so I think not only the model and the actual polices but the way you have en-acted those is something worth noting too. I just wanted you to see a-little bit from the Development Department a lot of what we do is try to figure out how we build environments that drive new residents and new investments. What you have done as a Council working with the Administration really laid the ground work for that. Do not over-look the fact that other folks are coming to figure out how you did it.

Councilman Miklik asks I have been in other cities where I see its pedestrian friendly and they have cross-walks and they have hash marks. The sign says it’s a State Law to yield to pedestrians in the cross-walk. It helps the feel of the culture in that town. Is that a Law?

David Tharp states, I can-not speak to that if that is a State Law.

Councilman Summers states, it is a State Law.

Councilman Miklik states, maybe it is something we can do.
Cont. Communications.
David Tharp states, we will get right on that to and see what we can do. I am more than happy to look into that.

Milton Beach City Controller states, I gave all of you a copy of the chart for the June 30th Cash Balances. I wanted to show you on that chart are our strong cash balances thru 2007 thru 2015. We have maintained these very strong cash balances without any fee increases; and I am really pleased to say that were not planning any fee increases. In 2008 we usually get 2 tax distributions a year, one in June and one in December; for some reason in 2008 we got 3 from the County and they were parcel. The reason I say that, you look at our cash balance in 2008 and it looks low, but it would actually be a lot higher had we gotten the full tax distribution. In 2009 those sums appear to be low that was because some of our major employers had filed bankrupt and they did not pay their taxes; after that was resolved the trending is very strong and the numbers are way up there. In 2014 we paid $6 Million Dollars for a parking garage as well as a Million dollars for the YMCA. Over all I think the trend is very strong as you can see and we are doing real well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Kennedy states, as Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. Beach has given us our time line for this year’s budget activities. Many things are happening currently. The Council will be involved around the beginning of September with our budget hearings; right now tentatively set for September 3rd would be our first meeting with the Department Heads. I say tentatively making sure that all of the other activities in advance of that occur in a timely manner. We are looking at the beginning of September to begin our budget hearings. I just wanted to let Council know.
President Hayes states this marks the end of this Council Meeting; and our next Council Meeting will be July 27th, 2015 with an Informational Meeting at 5:30 P.M. in the Louks Room; Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

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PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK