

**CITY OF KNOB NOSTER**  
**Board of Aldermen Session**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 4, 2020**

1. MAYOR MORTON called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. ALDERMAN BABINEAUX, STAUFFER-BAUM, LIECHTI, CHARRETTE, THOMAS and THERING were present. A quorum was verified.
2. The July 21, 2020, meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board of Aldermen. Motion to approve the July 21, 2020, meeting minutes was made by ALDERMAN THERING with a second by ALDERMAN BABINEAUX. Motion carried 6 ayes to 0 nays.
3. The Board of Aldermen reviewed the bill list. ALDERMAN CHARRETTE made mention that he thought that was a lot of money for the AT&T bill.
4. ALDERMAN STAUFFER-BAUM thanked the Street Dept. for their speedy repair on a big pothole in the road at the intersection of Jefferson and Workman. ALDERMAN THERING asked about the road cut on Washington Street done by Miller Pipeline. PW Super. Jeremy Kearney stated the road would be fixed by Miller Pipeline when they have finished the gas line repairs. He reminded all that a planning session for the Knob Noster State Park is on August 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the Clear Fork shelter. He then reminded all about the Open-Air Market August 8, 2020, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. ALDERMAN BABINEAUX asked when Higgins Asphalt will be starting our street project. PW Super. stated he would contact them and find out. He also stated that unless it is confidential, he would like his Board Packet left at his front door. ALDERMAN LIECHTI had been out of town so asked the following questions: Who initiated the Petition Audit? Why was it initiated? Do the citizens who will sign/have signed this petition understand that it will cost citizens between \$45,000 and \$65,000? Is the audit all encompassing (all departments)? ALDERMAN LIECHTI stated that he feels he has failed this City and this City Administrator. MAYOR MORTON stated that he had shared a Public Statement from the Office of the Mayor regarding the requested Audit Petition. He stated he had also submitted a letter of support for the Trails Regional Planning Commission for repairs to Highway 23 and the constant closures due to high water. Jeremy Kearney, Public Works Supervisor, stated that their department has been working on the City Park, repairing small leaks and completing numerous locates for Miller Pipeline. Bart Amsbaugh, Building Inspector, stated he had finished installing the last computer in the PD for their new report writing system. He also said, so far this year, the City has received building permit fees for \$2.4 million dollars of construction. Police Chief, Brian Kniskern, inquired when Miller Pipeline will be done in our town as patrons are complaining about the metal plates in the road. Jeremy stated they would be here for the better part of a year and will repair all that they have torn up. Fire Chief, Rick Johnson, stated that they had been to numerous gas leaks but are on a modified medical response due to Covid-19. Paula West, Court Clerk/Utility Clerk thanked Trisha Wilcox and Jeremy Kearney for all their help with the Water Department.

Perry Byerly, Planning and Zoning President stated that there would be a meeting on August 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. He also stated that the Medical Marijuana Bill has been through the P&Z Commission and their recommendation is for Board approval.

Benjamin Liechti, Park Board member, relayed that, due to Covid-19, they haven't been able to meet regularly. He stated that the Park Board are discussing park drainage, future planning for the City Park and possible locations for a new park.

The Public Safety Committee has not met yet.

5. Presentation of the City Administrator's resignation letter by Luke Lewis.
6. Melissa McConnell of NBT Arts and Crafts, 105 North State Street, inquired about whether public parking spaces were allowed to be reserved for businesses downtown. She states that some have claimed ownership of the spaces and only allow their customers get to park there. She doesn't have enough parking for her two businesses on State Street.

Garrett Carter, B&G Scoops, 421 North State Street stated that he didn't think parking spaces could be reserved except in the case of curbside food pickup.

Chad Copper, Shelter Insurance, 400 North State Street, thanked the Board members for running for and holding public office. He also thanked outgoing City Administrator, Luke Lewis, for all the amazing projects he began for the City. His main question was: Would Misty Thomas resign after petition audit finds no wrongdoing by the City?

Bart Amsbaugh, 228 NE 23 Highway, Building Inspector for Knob Noster, voiced his concerns over things that are going on in Knob Noster City government. He stated that he is disappointed in the Board of Aldermen for not protecting employees from scrutiny by other departments. Five employees have left within the last 8 months. Who will be next? He is sorry to see Luke go as he was making a positive impact on this community.

Rick Morris, 303 South State Street, owner of 18 properties in Knob Noster inquired if the entire Board of Aldermen had knowledge and approval that an audit petition had been initiated? Board members stated NO. He is also extremely upset that Luke Lewis has resigned as the City has been growing and building during his time here. He wishes that the Board of Aldermen would get along and be on the same page for positive growth in Knob Noster.

John H. Cohen, Jr., 101 East McKissock Street, told Luke that, at first, they had some issues but he can definitely see that he was pushing our City forward for betterment. He stated that Misty Thomas has had a personal agenda against Luke and has been conspiring for months to get rid of him. He asked Luke to please stay and fight for the City. He also thanked Luke for all that he has accomplished or set in motion since he was hired.

Perry Byerly, 200 South State Street, thanked Luke for all the guidance to revitalize the Planning and Zoning Commission. He doesn't want to see Luke leave the City as he and the Board have created enthusiasm among our town. He confronted Misty saying, "If they don't find anything in the petition audit that is costing taxpayers \$45,000 to 65,000, I DEMAND your resignation."

Zachary Grove, 100 South Bagby, is sad to see Luke leave. He is a member of the Park Board Committee. He stated that Luke was the reason for his involvement with the City and he appreciates all that he tried to do to keep the City moving forward.

Trisha Wilcox, 181 SE 1181 Road, said the City is losing out on the best City Administrator this City has had because he wants to make this a better place to live. She was an employee with the City until she quit in July. She is also disappointed with the Board of Aldermen for their inaction and their inability to hold people accountable for wrongdoing.

7. MAYOR MORTON submitted Joe Burnor as an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board. Motion was made to approve this appointment to the Parks and Recreations Board by ALDERMAN LIECHTI with a second by ALDERMAN THERING.

Motion carried 6 ayes to 0 nays.

8. Discussion was held regarding Bill No. 080420-B: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 439. ALDERMAN THOMAS disapproves of change because of her drive time to get here. ALDERMAN LIECHTI said that a 6:00pm meeting time would be helpful in the winter when it is dark so early. ALDERMAN THERING stated he would be unable to attend at 6:00pm when he has to work in the City. ALDERMAN CHARRETTE took a Facebook poll and it was 3 pollsters for 7:00pm and 2 pollsters for 6:00pm. Motion was made to have the City Clerk read Bill 080420-B, by title only, by ALDERMAN LIECHTI and was seconded by ALDERMAN BABINEAUX. Motion carried 3 ayes to 3 nays (Charrette, Thering, Thomas). MAYOR MORTON broke the tie with a "Aye" vote.

The City Clerk read Bill No. 080420-B by title only.

Discussion was held. Motion was made to have the City Clerk read Bill 080420-B, by title only, by ALDERMAN LIECHTI with a second by ALDERMAN BABINEAUX, with a Roll Call vote.

Roll Call:

ALDERMAN CHARRETTE	NAY
ALDERMAN THERING	NAY
ALDERMAN BABINEAUX	AYE
ALDERMAN LIECHTI	AYE
ALDERMAN THOMAS	NAY
ALDERMAN STAUFFER-BAUM	ABSTAINS

Motion dies on the floor, 4 nays to 2 ayes. Bill No. 080420-B fails.

9. Discussion was held regarding the Backyard Chicken Permit application received from Dan and Julie Richard of 605 East McPherson Street. Motion was made to approve the application by ALDERMAN THOMAS with a second by ALDERMAN LIECHTI.

Motion carries 6 ayes to 0 nays.

10. Motion was made to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. by ALDERMAN LIECHTI and was seconded by ALDERMAN THERING.

Motion carried 6 ayes to 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted by,

AMY M. SCHOUTEN,  
Knob Noster City Clerk