

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2017

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Hooker, Mohme, Woods, Zurliene, Sims All Present

Also present were City Clerk Karen Buzzard, City Administrator Doug Brimm, Attorney Tim Palen, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Mike Conley, Officer Brett Wiebler, Mark Brown, and Kelly Ross.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones announced the Trenton Chamber of Commerce Dinner/Dance/Auction Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Jailhouse Rock. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at all of the local banks and many local businesses.

Dollar General is moving forward. Mayor Jones said that the City's side of things was completed in September. Since then two private entities have been negotiating the sale of some additional land, and those parties have come to an agreement.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Resident Mark Brown asked what the timeline was for Chief Palen's evaluation of his department. Mayor Jones said that he wanted to respond to some misinformation that has been floating around. First, Chief Palen being allowed to drive a squad car to and from his home was a decision that the Council agreed to. This is written into his employment agreement and the Council approved that agreement. Second, the City has no additional liability when Chief Palen uses a vehicle in that way. The City's liability policy covers the use of all city vehicles and there is no increase in cost to the City for that vehicle being driven back and forth to Chief Palen's home. Third, give Chief Palen a chance. He has been in the position for only three weeks. When he was on board as the Captain he spent most of his time working on legal matters and beginning to work on the Code book. That project has been put on the back burner now that Mr. Palen is the Chief. The suggested timeline would be to look at this in the new fiscal year. Chief Jones is still receiving compensation. He is being paid out for his accrued leave which will take through the beginning of March, so there will be no budget impact until then. In addition, there is an election coming up and Mayor Jones stated that a lot could change in a short period of time.

Alderman Mohme stated that waiting until the next fiscal year is the only way to do this. He would like another police officer hired and a Captain too based on the 2016 call volumes that he obtained from Clinton County Sheriff department. Trenton was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the County for calls with almost 4000 more than New Baden. Alderman Mohme wants Trenton to have a power shift just like New Baden does. Mayor Jones said that call volumes is a good point. Trenton provides mutual aid for a large area. Alderman Hooker liked the flexibility of a Captain. Alderman Woods stated that the original reason for hiring a Captain was discipline. He did not initially see the need and his main concern now is how to pay for this. With hiring Mr. Palen there was a unique opportunity in that we brought legal counsel in-house. Alderman Zurliene stated that with Officer Olier leaving there should be some savings there and more will be realized when Chief Jones goes off the payroll. There was more discussion about how to pay for either another officer or Captain. Another consideration to take into account is the collective bargaining agreement and

just what would be allowed. There was another lengthy discussion on how to pay for another person and just how sustainable this would be. Nothing will be decided soon. Give Chief Palen some time to figure things out within his department.

#### **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Hooker had a Community Coordination Committee meeting last week. Interviews for Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager and Head Lifeguard will take place this Friday. An ad for seasonal park laborer was placed this week.

#### **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Mr. Brimm informed the Council that there will be a bid opening tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. for asbestos removal in the VFW building.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, motion carried.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1654 Approving Agreement Between the City of Trenton and Top Ag Cooperative for Tax Increment Finance Proceeds. Second Alderman Sims, all yes, motion carried.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1655 Approving Agreement Between the City of Trenton and Trenton House for Tax Increment Finance Proceeds. Second Alderman Zurliene, all yes, motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dan Kohlbrecher with the Trenton Chamber of Commerce met with Mr. Brimm today to discuss the purchase of three additional Christmas pole decorations. The Z Tree design was requested, matching ones purchased last year. Right now the price is reduced 33% and the total cost would be \$1246.48. Mr. Kohlbrecher would like to split that cost 50/50 between the Chamber and the City. The Chamber meets tomorrow night and Mr. Kohlbrecher will bring that up to them at that time. The Council had no objections.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Brown stated that the Trenton VFW Ladies donate flags to the Sugar Creek Fire Department and Sugar Creek Ambulance service to fly at their buildings. He would be happy to talk with Mary Lee to see if they would donate flags for the Police Department and City Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Zurliene, all yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk