

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MAY 15, 2017

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 7:03 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, and Mark Brown

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Brown asked the Council what their opinion was for creating the second in command position. Chief Palen said this is an internal mechanism; he is working to develop a framework that will work within the context of the union. We want the ability to look externally if we want to but to promote from within if we decide to do that too. Mayor Jones stated that the potential for a power shift is still open. We may try that for a time to see what results that produces. Alderman Hooker is in favor of a second in command, Alderman Woods didn't feel strongly either way but expressed concern over the cost, Alderman Mohme wants a power shift, Alderman Zurliene felt as Alderman Woods and Alderman Sims said that the way we went with Captain Palen was exploratory and presented the City with unique savings. Mr. Conley asked the Council if the savings really presented itself. Mayor Jones said yes, except for zoning. Mr. Conley asked if this was sustainable. Mayor Jones stated that the situation is different now. Previously we were putting into place a succession plan. We have carried out that plan and now we may look within.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones read a statement in response to Ms. Schott's recent inquiries regarding her personal sewer line. This was the letter that had been sent to her attorney. She has been sent a copy. At this point Mayor Jones encouraged Ms. Schott to file a claim with the City's insurance carrier. The City has not broken any laws, and regarding liability in this case, let our insurance carrier make that determination. Ms. Schott has also filed two FOIA requests with the City and those have been responded to.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Superintendent of Public Works Wehrle wanted to discuss an issue regarding himself. He apologized to Alderman Hooker for being rude to him when he showed up at Mr. Wehrle's home on Saturday evening to discuss a complaint about Mr. Wehrle's barking dogs. Mr. Wehrle stated that his neighbor has a personal vendetta against him for driving a city vehicle. Mr. Wehrle presented payroll from January, 2016 to present. The fewest hours he worked in a week were 40.5 and that week he spent two days in the hospital. He does not use the truck for personal business. He is responsible for turning off the lights at the park each evening so he quite often will drive the town, up and down alleys, check drainage, road conditions and put together the schedule for his guys. Mr. Wehrle wanted the Council to know that this is more than just barking dogs. Several of the Aldermen have been to Mr. Wehrle's house to investigate the dogs, and they

all reported that the dogs settle down quite quickly. Mayor Jones said that too much time has been spent on this and he would like a letter sent to the neighbor informing her that her complaint is unfounded.

Chief Palen stated that several meetings ago the Council discussed replacing the older blue vehicles. There is now a need for considerable amount of training mandated by the state and there is some equipment that will need to be replaced too. Therefore he is suggesting replacing the Impalas with Impalas and not Tahoes. Everything will transfer and the extra money that the Tahoes would cost can be put toward the equipment and training. Chief Palen found two 2012 Impalas at a dealership in N. Georgia, one with 28,000 miles and one with 51,000 miles, both for \$14,000. There was a lengthy discussion about the switch from Tahoes to Impalas and the impact to the budget. Chief Palen estimates that he will need \$10,000 to cover the training and equipment. Mayor Jones said that we will delve deeper into the budget to see if we can't find the money.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Authorize City Staff to Proceed with the Purchase of a 10-acre Tract of Land Owned by the William E. Begole Trust in an Amount not to Exceed \$22,500.00 per acre and to Secure Funds for Said Purchase through Community Bank of Trenton. Second Alderman Sims, all yes, motion carried. Mayor Jones stated that the purchase of this land is imperative to get the water and sewer lines under Highway 50. The City was unable to obtain the easements necessary to run the lines and this land provides an alternate route. The City will get the water and sewer lines to the bore site. The water line will be looped with the Northland Acres water lines eliminating dead ends. The sewer line will allow the City to eliminate two lift stations, one which would have needed to be replaced this year at a cost estimate of \$50,000. Zoning for this property would likely be single family to the East, and as you progress West move to multi-family and then to Industrial. The purchase of this land will be paid from the Revolving Loan fund, Industrial Commission and the loan from Community Bank in the amount of \$60,000. The City will develop the road and put in the utilities and then likely engage a developer to sell the lots. Due to fact that the City is paying a premium price for this land the agreement with Mr. Begole requires that he annex into the City 120 additional acres of his land located both on the north and south sides of Old Route 50.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to enter into closed session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, motion carried. The Council entered closed session at 8:29 p.m.

The Council re-entered the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m. Roll Call: Hooker, Mohme, Sims, Woods, Zurliene. All present.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Zurliene, all yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk