

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Hooker, Mohme, Sims, Weh, Woods, Zurliene All present.

Also present were City Clerk Karen Buzzard, City Administrator Doug Brimm, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, , Officer Alex Wilken, Mike Conley, Jim Brefeld, Doug Ratermann with HMG Engineering, Deb and Kevin Wellen, Dean Salvatore with Scheffel- Boyle, Jim, Jeremy and Jameson Rakers and Mark Brown

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Jones read a proclamation in honor of Hank's Bowl 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jim Rakers thanked the City for their support through the years.

Mayor Jones read a proclamation honoring Constitution Week 2017.

Mayor Jones introduced Dean Salvatore with Scheffel-Boyle. Mr. Salvatore reviewed for the Council the fiscal year 17 audit findings. The financial statements are fairly presented, and there was over \$120,000 surplus in the government funds. Water and sewer funds showed a deficit. Mr. Salvatore cautioned the City to keep an eye on the water fund, and stated the deficit in the sewer fund may have been done intentionally. There was significant debt paid off in that fund during the fiscal year. He went on to talk of the net pension liability being less than it was one year ago. Currently the pension liability is 91% funded. Mr. Salvatore explained that this is a floating number and never actually gets paid in full. It is recalculated annually by actuaries at IMRF. Mayor Jones asked several questions related to the pension liability and Mr. Salvatore assured him that the City is in good shape there. When Mayor Jones questioned the fiscal soundness of the City Mr. Salvatore stated that he had no concerns, that we did an excellent job creating the surplus in the governmental funds. We currently have nine to ten months reserves in the general fund. Mayor Jones stated that the Council is aware of the situation with the water fund and it is likely that we will need to raise rates soon. The current debt service was calculated on consumption rates that are ten plus years old. Residents now conserve water and have high efficiency appliances. Interfund loans are only \$1100.00 which is one of the lowest Mr. Salvatore has ever seen. Mayor Jones questioned our procedures for fraud potential. Mr. Salvatore stated that with a staff our size there is not enough segregation of duties. The best thing to do is put together a committee to review our processes to identify weak spots and take action to eliminate any weak spots.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Jim Brefeld has obtained quotes from plumbers for upgrades to his building on Broadway and has asked for TIF assistance. Mayor Jones suggested that he bring all of the bids for all of the work to Mr. Brimm and they put together a plan to present to the Council.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

The Trenton Fest this past weekend was very well attended. This is the first year we haven't had rain on Friday night is the past several years. Co-chairs Brent Woods and Phil Schmitt did a fantastic job. Thanks to all of the volunteers and city employees.

The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive will be this weekend. Give generously and drive cautiously through the four-way intersection.

The Fund balance report shows a surplus of just under \$98,000.00 in the General Fund through August. We will have a detailed discussion about the water fund coming up. Sales tax revenue is going up due in part to Dollar General being open.

In response to a letter to the editor regarding the drainage at the new parking lot on Broadway, Mayor Jones asked Doug Ratermann of HMG Engineering to explain to the Council the planning that went into the drainage. Mr. Ratermann stated that there are four oversized inlets that lead into underground retention. The underground retention is designed to release water slowly into the storm sewer system at times of low flow, and when it rains hard the piping system itself acts as additional retention. Mr. Ratermann said that this was designed to handle water just the same as when the house and grass were there. Mayor Jones said that total soft costs for this project are estimated at \$25,000.00. This falls about \$225,000.00 short of the claim made in the paper.

Mayor Jones read for the Council the response from the City's insurance company regarding the claim made by Ms. Schott for her sewer.

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

Alderman Hooker called a Community Coordination Committee meeting for next Monday at 6:30 p.m. to discuss needs for the pool for next year. He will get an agenda to Clerk Buzzard by Friday. He also stated that there is a plastic water tank in the ditch near the water tower.

Alderman Woods thanked everyone that helped with the Trenton Fest this past weekend.

Alderman Weh wanted everyone to remember that today is the anniversary of the attacks on our country and in light of the recent hurricanes that this anniversary may have taken a back seat. Please remember the victims and families of 9/11.

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

Interim Chief Joellenbeck warned everyone of identity theft in the aftermath of the Equifax data breach. He gave the website [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov) to check to see if you have been affected. If you have, please make a police report. This is usually required as part of the identity theft process. Three more alternative vehicle permits have been issued and two more citations for operating without a permit have been issued.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Weh, all yes, motion carried. The Consent Agenda included the Minutes of the August 28, 2017 Regular Council meeting, the Bills for August 2017, the Payrolls for August 2017, the Treasurer's Report for July 2017, a 3% pay increase for Peggy Wellen and Cindy Shaw, and a motion Exercising Power of Administrative Review of Decision of Zoning Hearing Officer (303 W Iowa St. Variance).

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The agenda item for approving a scoreboard for the park was tabled until we get more details.

Mr. Brimm walked the Council through the variance process again. He agreed with Alderman Hooker that the Zoning Code does need to be updated, but tonight's decision does not fall into the situation of a small lot. The Wellens have ample room to meet all zoning setback requirements; they prefer to build in a spot that does not meet code. Mr. Brimm reviewed the three points that must be met to have a variance granted, and the Wellens do not meet any, therefore staff recommends voting no on Ordinance #1686 and letting the decision of the Hearing Officer stand.

Mayor Jones agreed that the zoning code needs to be updated and the Plan Commission has started the process a couple of times but never finished. It was suggested to get a consultant in to educate the Plan Commission and the Council on zoning. The Wellens stated that they were never informed of a set of criteria that needed to be met for a variance to be granted. Mr. Brimm took responsibility for that and it was decided to refund the Wellens the \$200 variance application fee if the ordinance is not passed. Alderman Hooker presented findings from an unscientific study he performed on lot size and compliance. Alderman Woods agreed that the code needs to be updated but the decision tonight is about a variance for the Wellens. Mayor Jones called for a motion. Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1686 Granting an Area-Bulk Variance for 303 West Iowa Street. Second Alderman Zurliene. Roll Call: Hooker, yes, Mohme, no, Sims, no, Weh, no, Woods, no, Zurliene, yes. Motion failed.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Confirm the Appointment of Christopher Joellenbeck as Chief of Police and Approve Employment Agreement. Second Alderman Zurliene, all yes, motion carried. Resident Mark Brown asked if the Chief had a residency requirement. Mr. Brimm said that the employment agreement allows for Chief Joellenbeck to remain at his current residence. If he were to ever move, at that time he must reside in the City limits.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The roofs of the pavilions at the park need to be replaced and the library wants to replace the siding on their building. In an effort to keep things looking uniform and to get better pricing the City had Brad Hummert of HMG Engineering create bid documents for those jobs. The library has requested vinyl siding, but the current metal siding would heat up and cause the vinyl siding to warp. To remove and replace the siding would be too costly, so the recommendation is to clean and repaint the library. Doug Ratermann who attended the meeting on behalf of Brad Hummert explained that the way the bid documents were drafted allows for any of the individual buildings to be pulled from the total project. There was discussion about the structural integrity of the main concession stand at the park. Not only is the roof in need of major repairs but the walls are buckling. The repairs to the building itself are not part of the bid package. That would need to be bid by a different type of contractor. After much discussion it was decided to pull the concession stand from the bid and move forward with the remainder of the bid specs.

Jim Rakers thanked the City and Council and expressed his appreciation for all they have done for him.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Woods 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 Mohme all yes, motion carried. The Council entered closed session at 8:53 p.m.

The Council re-entered the regular meeting at 8:57 p.m. Roll Call: Hooker, Mohme, Sims, Weh, Woods, Zurliene. All present

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Woods made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Hooker, all yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk