

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 27, 2017

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones on Monday, November 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Hooker, Mohme, Sims, Weh, Woods, Zurliene (absent)

Also present were City Clerk Karen Buzzard, City Administrator Doug Brimm, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Officer John Sury, Mike Conley, and Brett Benhoff of HMG Engineering. Larry Davis entered the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Hooker made a motion to enter into closed session citing 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body, 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Pending or Probable Litigation, and 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes, motion carried, Zurliene absent. The Council entered closed session at 7:03 p.m.

The Council reentered the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call: Hooker, Mohme, Sims, Weh, Woods, Zurliene (absent)

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Brett Benhoff with HMG Engineering gave an update on the wastewater treatment plant. Most of the major equipment has been installed and testing of the equipment has started. The lift station pumps have been delayed again and are expected to be delivered next week. Fencing options were discussed and it is possible that the contract with Korte & Luitjohan may have to be extended to cover the completion of the project which will include installation of the fence which may not be until spring. Mr. Benhoff will verify that extension of the contract will not alter the finances of the project. He will also bring back more firm final construction numbers. Estimated plant start up is now January due to the lift station pumps delay.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones extended congratulations to Retired Chief Jones on being named Community Member of the Year by the Trenton Council of Churches.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Hooker would like to have an ad in the paper for assistant pool manager and lifeguards for next season. He stated that the week of Christmas would be good because everyone would be home from school. He will call a meeting for early January.

Mayor Jones said that the roofs at the park and on the library look nice.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck informed the Council that the digital cameras have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

Superintendent of Public Works Wehrle stated that “No Trespassing” signs have been posted at the wastewater treatment plant and fencing will be put up tomorrow at the headworks and reactor tower. He will also start on more dirt work at the plant tomorrow.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Mohme made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Zurliene absent, motion carried. The consent agenda included Approval of Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Regular Council Meeting and Approval of Schedule of 2018 Council Meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve 2018 Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust General Liability/Property Insurance Renewal in the amount of \$70,949.00. Second Alderman Weh, all yes, Zurliene absent, motion carried. Mr. Brimm informed the Council that the new wastewater treatment plant will cause an increase of \$6,000.00 in premium. That amount will be pro-rated based on when the City accepts the plant.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve 2018 Illinois Public Risk Fund Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal in the Amount of \$39,236.00. Second Alderman Hooker, all yes, Zurliene absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Settlement of Claim between the City of Trenton and Christa Schott. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes, Zurliene absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Brett Benhoff with HMG Engineering discussed with the Council that while putting the roof on the pool shed the guttering was found to be in bad shape. A change order is before the Council tonight to approve replacement of that guttering. This would result in an increase of \$590.00 to the project cost. Alderman Woods mentioned other gutters/downspouts that are damaged and asked if pricing could be obtained to fix those as well. There was discussion about the type of material to prevent the vandalism that is taking place from happening again. Mr. Benhoff will check into that. Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve Change Order #1 for the Trenton Park Roofing/Siding Project in the Amount of \$590.00. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Zurliene absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Jones stated that for the past seven years Trenton has lowered property taxes, overall by a total of more than 20%. We are the only municipality in Western Clinton County to do so. Residents may not have noticed because the other taxing bodies have consumed that reduction. He stated that this is not because we are genius but because we understand the levy process, which our predecessors did not. We are now at a point where we can't continue to lower taxes without harming future finances. It is time to shore up the levy. This year's proposal has a 0.18% decrease from last year. Next year we will need to raise the levy marginally and keep steady moving forward. Mr. Brimm explained which line items that have maximum increases set by statute and the line items that have no caps. The line items we have concentrated on are FICA, IMRF and Tort Liability. These have had severely inflated fund balances and for the last several years we have drawn those balances down. We have reached a point where we need to toggle them back up a bit to maintain a one year fund balance which has been recommended by Annette Hipkiss formerly with Allison, Knapp, Siekman and Scheffel Boyle. Next year we will need to raise the levy which will likely trigger a truth in taxation hearing. There was some discussion about how the liability insurance premium is distributed across funds. Mr. Brimm and Ms. Buzzard will be looking at that in more depth.

Mr. Brefeld is seeking an amendment to his Redevelopment Agreement with the City. He would like to recover some of the cost of moving water meters to the outside of his building.

Superintendent Wehrle questioned the quote Mr. Brefeld presented to the City because some of the work he is requesting reimbursement for is going to be done by the City. This discussion was tabled until we can get more information.

Mr. Brimm informed the Council that KMK Metal Fabricators informed the City several years ago of their intention to expand so at that time a renewal of the lease of their ground for our soccer program was not done. We have continued to use the ground. We have now been informed by Mr. Kassel with KMK that they plan a solar expansion on the south side of their property. This would prevent us from having a large soccer field. In light of this news the City is looking at the possibility of moving all soccer fields to the City park. This would relieve the City of the maintenance of KMK fields, there would be parking, concession could be made available, and there are lights. There was general discussion about this development and concerns were expressed related to overlap of sports (Jr. High baseball/softball and soccer), and whether there was enough room to have the number of fields needed for all of the players. More details will be worked out and brought back to the Council.

Larry Davis of the Library Board addressed the Council. Tonight at the Library Board meeting they hired Angie Schute to replace retiring library director Linda Richter. Ms. Schute will be paid \$15.00 per hour and comes to Trenton from Breese Library. Linda's last day will be December 14th. There will be cookies and punch that day at the library and everyone is invited. Mayor Jones would like to honor Linda at the December 11th Council meeting and present to her a plaque.

Mr. Davis thanked the City for the new roof on the library and asked about the siding. Mr. Benhoff with HMG Engineering said that to cover the existing metal siding with vinyl may pose a problem with heat transfer. The fear is that the heat generated by the metal will warp the vinyl. The best option may be to paint the metal.

Mr. Brimm informed the Council that the redevelopment agreement with Trenton House Restaurant includes adding a balcony back onto the building like it originally had. With that the support posts will reduce the width of the sidewalk and therefore not meet with ADA requirements for their ramp. A design was created to reroute the ramp similar to how the ramp at Hank's bowl was done. Quotes from KRB Excavating and Beckmann Construction were obtained. KRB quoted \$6,100.00 for reconstruction of ramp and railings, Beckmann Construction quoted \$7,825.00 for reconstruction of ramp and railings. If the Council is OK with this, it will be on the next agenda for approval. TIF funds can be used for this project and the timeline can be worked to not negatively impact any holiday parties at the restaurant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jones just wanted to say that in relation to the settlement claim approved earlier tonight he is glad that this has come to a satisfactory resolution. He would like to adjust the focus now to other areas. He wants the public to know that the City has no intention to work against residents. He is glad everything was handled professionally.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Hooker made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Zurliene absent, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk