

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 2015

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Officer Anjeles Mora, City Administrator Doug Brimm, City Clerk Karen Buzzard, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Attorney Tim Palen, Doug Rattermann with HMG Engineering and Chris Trimble

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Chris Trimble has completed his Eagle Scout project of lubricating and painting all fire hydrants in the City of Trenton. He reported that 181 hydrants were painted and 11 of those were not able to be opened. The project took 8 days and 275 man-hours.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones stated that with all of the recent rains the City has experienced no problems.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Hooker attended the recent park board meeting and relayed to all of their members the discussions had at the Community Coordination committee meeting held earlier this month. The park board is going to work on getting data on pool fees and field usage. Alderman Hooker would like to have another committee meeting prior to the first Council meeting in December at 6:00p.m.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

City Administrator Brimm informed the Council of an issue with residents raking/blowing their leaves into the streets. This practice hampers the operation of the street sweeper and causes drainage problems. Mr. Brimm is looking to the Council for suggestions on how to handle this. The public works department has put in 96 man-hours costing the taxpayers over \$2,000 just to clean up leaves the last couple of weeks. All residents currently pay for curbside yardwaste pickup. Proposed suggestions included putting a notice in the paper, issuing warnings and following up with citations. This will be on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Zurliene made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to approve Resolution #11232015 for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Brimm passed out to everyone a comparison of the last five houses built in Trenton's building permit fees under our current method and under the proposed new method. Although

this would raise our fees, it would put Trenton right in line with other communities in our area. There was much discussion about the fee multiplier and how it is calculated. Mr. Brimm pointed out that the proposed change would calculate permit fees on a much more fair and equitable basis than taking the word of the builder on a stated value of construction. The table made it obvious that one developer in Trenton knows this and has been working the numbers to his advantage to pay the least amount possible to the City. Mayor Jones asked for the Council's thoughts. Alderman Hooker thought the numbers were reasonable.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Brimm discussed the proposed 2015 property tax levy. Mayor Jones gave a history of how the levy was being calculated when he came on the Council. From that time, property taxes have been lowered just over 20%, and cannot be lowered much more. Mr. Brimm included a link to the Illinois Property Tax Rate and Levy Manual in the packet and he hoped that everyone took the opportunity to review that. The levy numbers before you represent a decrease of 1.4% from last year. Mayor Jones expressed concern that the state will freeze property taxes and feels that this levy puts us in a good position if that were to happen.

Mr. Brimm informed the Council that as part of the AZAVAR audit, Ameren pointed out that our utility tax agreement does not provide exemption of utility taxes on municipally owned buildings. Ameren currently does not charge utility taxes on our municipal buildings, but they could. The proposed ordinance change would include the language to exempt our buildings from that tax.

Superintendent of Public Works, Kurt Wehrle reported that when flushing hydrants this fall it was found that the hydrant at E. Broadway and S. Oak was dead. It is believed that it was connected to a water line that was tied to the old water tower that is now gone. Mr. Wehrle feels this hydrant to be valuable, especially with it being right there at KMK, and there is an 8 inch water line close enough to tap onto. The total cost to complete this would not exceed \$1400 and could be done in one day. This would be a TIF eligible project.

Mr. Wehrle explained to the Council that if there is a break on the main transmission line from SLM Water we have about 13 residents that feed directly from that line and therefore are without water until the break is fixed. Mr. Wehrle would like to install an inserta valve west of Fillmore which would enable us to backfeed those residents in the event of a break. We have a valve on-hand and the cost to have it inserted would be \$2800.00. The public works department will do the digging and backfilling. Mr. Wehrle will check to see if a boil order would need to be issued. There was discussion about placing the valve further west on the line. More details will be sought and this will be discussed at the next meeting. This project too is in the TIF district.

Mr. Brimm explained to the Council that the new wastewater treatment plant will be shifted a bit further north than the existing plant and therefore will be in a flood plain. FEMA will allow us to file a letter of MAP amendment, but because the un-named tributary runs through the property they will not allow us to have all of the land removed from the flood plain. We can, however, have a building removed, and this is what we intend to do. Doug Rattermann with HMG Engineering explained that there is no published 100 year flood elevation for this creek, so it is better for us to calculate all of this now. FEMA will issue to the City a certificate stating that the wastewater treatment plant is not in the flood plain. This is worth the money that will be spent now as opposed to being forced to purchase flood insurance in the future. The cost for HMG to prepare this letter of map amendment is not to exceed \$4000.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve the Expenditure of \$1,000.00 for Stump Grinding (various locations) and Tree Removal by BKL. Second Alderman Woods, all yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Jones said that the general fund is running \$37,000 in the black right now. The IPTIP revenue continues to be strong. The Jailhouse project is completed and we are starting on the KMK project. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Zurliene, all yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk