

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2018

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2018.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were City Clerk Karen Buzzard, City Administrator Doug Brimm, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun, Dale Holtmann and Mike Bress of Scheffel Boyle and Officer Dave Jordan.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

A presentation was made by Dale Holtmann of Scheffel Boyle of the audit performed by them for the City's fiscal year ended April 30, 2018. He reviewed the letters that are required for them to present to us and pointed out that no significant deficiencies exist. There is a lack of segregation of duties which is common with a staff of our size. The management letter had one recommendation and that would be to look at the possibility of segregating the general fund for ease of reconciling bank statements. The TIF report is now segregated from the full financial report for ease if someone were to FOIA the TIF. Mr. Holtmann reviewed the details of the TIF report and answered questions. No deficiencies were found with TIF. Mr. Holtmann then reviewed the financial statements and answered questions. Everything presented fairly and no deficiencies were found. The adjusting entries were posting errors only, nothing material. Mayor Jones asked if the City should make a payment to IMRF to reduce our unfunded liability. Mr. Holtmann does not recommend that at this time. There is too much fluctuation in the market and the City of Trenton is very well funded at this time. Mayor Jones closed with questions concerning our methods of operation and suggestions for improving our ways. Mr. Holtmann said that he had no suggestions. We are doing everything well and from an audit standpoint he had no concerns.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones said that it has been put out publicly that the City's exercises and operations within the TIF are stupid and not effective. Since Mayor Jones took office in 2013 the TIF revenue has increased 26.36%. TIF property tax receipts have increased from \$178,773.00 in 2013 to \$225,900.00 in 2018. This should dispute any rumors that the City has misappropriated TIF funds. The General Fund surplus stands at \$220,000.00 through November year to date and that number was negative in 2013, so we have done a very good job with the City's finances.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Chief Joellenbeck referenced the robbery at Casey's that wasn't a real robbery. Both suspects have pled guilty and are serving minor jail time. These two were also suspects in a car burglary at Trenton House and have pled guilty to charges in that incident too.

There are 31 open code enforcement cases at 13 different addresses. There is no one part of town that does not have violations. Sixteen cases have been resolved. Next Monday the first set of citations that were issued will be going to court. There are a total of 8 citations issued with 7 of them to be heard in court next Monday and one set for court in January. Mr. Brimm stressed that

the goal here is compliance. We are working with several residents and as long as they are showing progress we will not issue any citations. Mr. Brimm stated that he and Chief are following up on phone calls that have come in to be sure that the residents are actually doing what they said they would on the phone. To take things one step further, Mr. Brimm would like to work with attorney Heiligenstein to draw up a single page agreement that would list the violations and list the timeline for compliance. This would give us one more piece of evidence if citations would be issued and eventually taken to court.

The last item that Chief Joellenbeck brought up was for everyone to keep an eye out. A package was stolen from a front porch this week.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as read. Second Alderman Wagoner. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve Minutes of the November 26, 2018 Regular Council meeting, a motion to Approve Bills for month of November 2018, a motion to Approve Payrolls for month of November 2018, and a motion to Approve Treasurer's report for month of October 2018.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Jones said that the City is proposing a 1.22% decrease in the property taxes but the residents of Trenton will see an increase of 4.9% on their actual bill. This is due to an approximate 5% increase in assessed valuation by the County. Mr. Brimm stated that while we are proposing a 4.9% increase in the levy he anticipates that number to go down a bit because the senior tax freezes had not yet been applied to the assessed valuations. We won't know what the actual assessed valuation is until possibly the end of February. Our proposed levy this year will have a couple of line items eliminated and the general fund surplus will make up the difference. Mr. Brimm reviewed the changes from last year's levy. Increases in some line items are being offset by decreases elsewhere or eliminated line items. It is estimated that the general fund will be impacted by about \$30,000.00. The levy ordinance will be on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Wagoner made a motion for Approval of Keel Engineering, Inc. Work Order #1 – Brooke Circle in the amount of \$7,700.00. Second Alderman Hooker, all yes, motion carried. This will be paid from the small capital improvement fund.

At the request of the Council and residents attending meetings, a request for qualifications for a complete update to the Zoning Code was issued. One response was received from Streiler Planning. Mr. Brimm and Clerk Buzzard met with Mr. Streiler and he indicated that he would utilize a high level of input from the public. There would be several public hearings to be sure that all of the residents' concerns are addressed. Mr. Streiler comes highly recommended from both Highland and Lebanon. The proposed contract has a not to exceed amount of \$40,000.00 and Mr. Streiler would bill at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. Mr. Brimm pointed out that this is a complete overhaul including significant policy changes as opposed to the update work being done to our code by Municode. The Capital Improvement fund or General Fund could pay for this.

8:14 p.m. Attorney Joe Heiligenstein entered the meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Hooker made a motion to enter into Closed Session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the Public Body and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the Public Body. Second Alderman Wagoner, all yes. The Council entered closed session at 8:18 p.m.

The Council re-entered the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Roll Call: Hooker, Sims, Mohme, Weh, Woods, Wagoner. All present

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 26, 2018. Everyone be here!

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Woods made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Mohme. All yes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk