

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2019

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 Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

ROLL CALL

Deien, Kniepman, Mohme. Sims, Weh, Woods All present.

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Police Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Treasurer Joe Palas, Officer Collin Hill and Kevin Tepen of C.J. Schlosser & Company

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Kevin Tepen of C.J. Schlosser & Company presented the fiscal year 2019 audit findings to the Council. He reviewed the fund balances for the general fund stating that the City currently has in reserves a fund balance of five months. The recommended fund balance averages 3.5 months. The Tax Increment Finance (TIF) fund had a decrease in fund balance for the year, but that was planned. All of the other governmental funds were reviewed with no significant increases or decreases. The water fund showed an increase in revenues of over \$100,000 from last year. Expenses were up also due to reporting of depreciation which had not been done in the past. This was also the case with the sewer fund. Illinois EPA loan debts were reported but the assets resulting from the loans were also reported. This change was due to our audit report being more in line with required reporting standards. Mayor Jones questioned the reason for reporting depreciation; our previous audits did not report that. Mr. Tepen stated that this is the correct way of reporting. Mayor Jones questioned the drop in our pension funding. Mr. Tepen stated that IMRF (our pension plan) is based on a calendar year and as of December month end 2018 the stock market had taken a bit of a dive. IMRF investments did not do well. Since then the stock market has recovered. Mayor Jones then asked whether we were ok with our current debt service. Mr. Tepen stated that we were not in a bad situation and that there is no way to predict future infrastructure needs. Mayor Jones then asked specifically about the debt in the water fund. Some of the IL EPA loans will be retired in the next several years. He asked Mr. Tepen's opinion in paying off the debt now and building up cash reserves to avoid the possibility of raising rates. Mr. Tepen again said that you cannot predict future infrastructure needs. There was a brief discussion about revisiting the water fund. One of the final questions Mayor Jones asked was whether there were any findings related to internal controls. Mr. Tepen had no findings. For a staff our size we have adequate checks and balances.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones had a couple of comments. First, staff will be working on the levy and have that for Council approval soon. Next, City Administrator Marquart has picked up where Mr. Brimm left off on the zoning code and will be convening the Plan Commission to review the proposed overhaul. Lastly, the water fund needs to be brought back for discussion. Staff will gather data for that discussion.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Weh asked when the last water rate increase was and when exactly did the City convert to one billing per month. Clerk Buzzard will gather those details for the water rate discussion. Alderman Weh also did not want the project of upgrading the grandstand restrooms to fall by the wayside. Spring will be here before we know it.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck reminded everyone to lock their cars and take the keys. There has been a rash of car burglaries lately with one resulting in a car chase that had Trenton police deploying spike strips and apprehending suspects west of town. Do not confront these thieves, call the police.

City Administrator Marquart will be meeting with the consultant on the zoning code next week and then meeting with the Plan Commission for review.

There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow for all parties involved in and affected by the S. King Oak reconstruction project.

City Administrator Marquart also reported that he has begun code enforcement duties.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Weh made a motion to Approve the consent agenda as read. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included the Minutes of the October 28, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, the Payrolls and Bills for the month of October, 2019 and the Treasurer's report for the month of September, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Administrator Marquart explained to the Council that the motion before them would allow all employees to participate in a 457 plan. There is no minimum contribution and there is no cost to the City for participation. Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Participation in International City management Association Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC) – 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. Second Alderman Kniepman. All yes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Marquart reported that the City's property/casualty insurance is with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) and our workers compensation insurance is with Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF). With bundling our workers compensation coverage with our property/casualty the City will save about \$6,000.00. This will also put both renewals on the same time schedule and will consolidate our claims process. Alderman Kniepman questioned whether the City received safety grants from IPRF. Yes, we did, which by moving our coverage to ICRMT we will no longer receive the grants. With no other questions, this will be on the next agenda for approval.

Mayor Jones stated that it doesn't matter what we do, we need to recognize that the state of Illinois has made recreational marijuana legal and the question before us now is how we want to handle it. Mr. Marquart said that the City could opt out of allowing facilities that sell marijuana to locate in Trenton. If we decide to allow those facilities then how do we zone them? Lastly, how do we handle this from the employer side of things? There will need to be changes made to collective bargaining agreements and the employee handbook. There are some trailer bills in the state veto session right now, so the recommendation is to hold off on any ordinances until we know what changes are being made now.

Mayor Jones stated this scenario is similar to video gaming and we should view this in the same fashion. The state will allow municipalities to impose up to an additional 3% sales tax on sales of recreational marijuana so we should tax to the max and take in the revenue. There was much discussion and the general consensus was to allow the sale within the City. Details on where to allow these facilities to locate and other particulars will be incorporated into the revised zoning code which is currently being worked on. Attorney Heiligenstein will put together an ordinance for imposing the additional sales tax. One alderman questioned the additional strain on our police department if we move forward and allow this. Chief Joellenbeck did not expect any beyond the time required to expunge records which is also a requirement of the new law. Another Alderman

wanted to know if the City decided to opt out at this time if there would be the option to opt back in at a later date. Administrator Marquart will check into that. This was just an initial discussion and as we learn more it will be brought back for further discussion.

Mayor Jones said that one thing that no one is talking about right now is sports betting. That too has been legalized and he questioned how that might tie into video gaming facilities. Much more information is needed on that.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jones brought up that our second meeting in December is scheduled for December 23 and wanted to know if any of the aldermen would not be in attendance. At this time all will be in attendance. If there is nothing pressing for the agenda it is possible that meeting may be cancelled. We will let everyone know as we get closer to that date.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Woods made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk