

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 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 Monday, December 9, 2019 followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Deien, Kniepman, Mohme (absent). Sims, Weh, Woods

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Police Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Treasurer Joe Palas, Officer Collin Hill, Becky and Dale Thole, Doug Ratermann of HMG Engineering, and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Thole asked whether the Trenton Garden Club would be allowed to grow cannabis and then sell it at their annual plant sale. She was informed that the Cannabis Act would not allow for that to happen. She then asked if the Trenton Chamber of Commerce would be allowed to host a 420 festival. She again was informed that the statute would not allow for that. City Administrator Marquart is going to provide Ms. Thole with resources that show her what the law states.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Weh followed up on the conversation started at the last meeting about the pole flags that need to be replaced. Joe Palas got pricing from the Legion and the cost for 12 flags with aluminum poles would be between \$700 and \$750. We could replace 12 per year for the next 4 years. There are a total of 40 flags that the Legion puts up. Superintendent Wehrle would like to have wooden poles because the aluminum poles bend so easily with the wind. Clerk Buzzard had a catalog from the vendor that the City buys flags from. She will get a price quote from them to compare to the Legion pricing. More information will be brought back to the Council.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck said that collections at the four way stop for Christmas with a cop went well. In addition, a Trenton Police Benevolent Association has been created. This will be used to adopt families at Christmas and a scholarship has been established. All Trenton police officers are members and others may become members also.

Chief Joellenbeck informed the Council of a traffic stop made early Saturday morning. A Trenton officer pulled over a vehicle doing 98 mph in a 55 mph zone. In addition to speeding this person was charged with possession of cannabis with intent to distribute and attempt to destroy evidence.

City Administrator Marquart reported that things are moving forward with the energy assessment that will be done at the wastewater treatment plant and park.

City Administrator Marquart is also working on a template agreement for placing utilities in the City right-of-way. The City has had two requests recently to have fiber or cable placed in our right-of-way, so he will have the template agreement for the Council's review at the next meeting.

City Administer Marquart recently met with Sarah Tebbe of HMG Engineering to review the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant process. She confirmed that the pricing we obtained earlier this fall is still good and verified that the grant processing timeframe is still what it was last year. The maximum grant award is \$400,000.00 and there is a 50% match required of the municipality. Something new this year is that the granting agency will come out and do a site visit which will help us to improve our grant application which will improve our chances of being awarded a grant. New also is the fact that OSLAD will pay up front half of the award amount on projects. Questions were asked about what we plan to include in our grant request and what the timeline is. Mayor Jones said that a list of projects will be compiled and a committee will gather the pricing information and bring back to the Council a final product for inclusion in the grant application.

City Administrator Marquart has had several conversations with Dairy King owner Michelle Maue on her expansion project. Her project costs are at \$720,000.00 with \$291,000.00 of that being eligible for reimbursement. This represents 41% of the total project cost and would be rebated over a 10 year period. Ms. Maue is now requesting reimbursement for the acquisition of one of the properties, adding \$165,000.00 to the total eligible for reimbursement. With that included the total percent reimbursed would be just over 60% and Mr. Marquart said that Ms. Maue is fine with spreading that over 15 years. He asked for input from the Council on the percentage of the project to reimburse and what funds (Business District or TIF) to pay from. After much discussion the general consensus was to reimburse at 60% and front load the reimbursement with TIF funds and use Business District funds in the later years. Mr. Marquart will have an agreement to be approved at an upcoming meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Kniepman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Second Alderman Weh, all yes. Alderman Mohme absent. The Consent Agenda included the Minutes of the November 25, 2019 Regular Council meeting, the bills for November 2019, the payrolls for November 2019, and the Treasurer's report for October 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Woods made a Motion to Approve Ordinance #1759 Providing for Tax Levy. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, Alderman Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1760 Amending TIF Agreement with 702 Land Trust (219 W Broadway). Second Alderman Woods. All yes, Alderman Mohme absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Marquart discussed with the Council a proposed amendment to the City Code specifically creating a new Class "D" liquor license. This new license would allow for beer and wine sales for on premise consumption only. This new license is being created due to the rising popularity of video cafes. Last summer a special use permit was issued to allow for a café but that business did not come to fruition. We have since had other interest for that same type of operation at that same location. Hours of operation under this license class would be from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. City Administrator Marquart has been working to incorporate into the zoning code regulations on where these cafes can be located, etc. There was a question as to the number of licenses that would be allowed in this class. All others are at 6 so that is the number for this class too. This will be presented to the Council for approval at the next meeting.

The next item for discussion is the ordinance approving the sales tax of 3% on cannabis sales. This ordinance has nothing to do with consumption; it is for the imposition of a sales tax only. Alderman Weh wanted clarification that if this ordinance is passed then the City is allowing cannabis sales in the City. Yes, that is the case, although chances are slim that a dispensary

would locate here. Mayor Jones said that strong debate will be needed on the zoning side of this issue. The City can always deny a request for development and therefore never collect the tax.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jones stated that we will have a meeting on December 23, 2019 as scheduled.

Chief Joellenbeck stated that the Christmas with a cop shopping will be this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the Highland Wal-Mart.

Doug Ratermann informed the Council that the concrete has been poured at the S. King Oak intersection and it is curing beautifully. The concrete passed strength testing. Shoulder and other dirt work will be done this week weather permitting. Once that is completed the project should be done and the road opened back up to traffic.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Kniepman made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk