

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING April 27, 2020

NOTE: This meeting was conducted via phone conference as part of COVID-19 response. The City Administrator and City Clerk were physically present. Everyone else participated remotely.

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, April 27, 2020.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Police Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein and Treasurer Joe Palas

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones reported the updated Clinton County COVID-19 numbers. Through April 27, 2020 there are 17 new positive cases. All together 355 people have been tested with 19 positive, 16 are recovered with 70 under home quarantine, 4 hospitalizations and 1 death. The numbers in Clinton County are on the rise.

The determination has been made to keep the pool closed for this summer season. This decision has been made in conjunction with surrounding municipalities and our pool manager. He has notified the guards. Administrator Marquart will talk further about the baseball/softball season later in his remarks.

Mayor Jones reviewed the monthly fund balance report. He discussed the anticipated decrease in our IPTIP revenues due to the COVID-19. We expect June, July and August to be impacted the most. Mayor Jones sent a letter to the Governor encouraging him to spread some of the federal assistance funds to downstate and smaller municipalities. The fiscal year that ends in a couple of days is sound. It is the next fiscal year that has the potential to be volatile. We are well positioned with our cash to be able to weather this. Going forward sewer fund will need to be looked at. The water fund we have made some strides and they are beginning to show. All other funds are in good shape. Mayor Jones pointed out that for the fiscal year ending April 2020 there was an increase in IPTIP revenue of \$15,000.00 over last year. This is where we will see the largest impact going forward. Our sales tax, non-home rule sales tax, and income tax will be hit most significantly.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Weh wants to include in the discussion later regarding the baseball/softball season when the select teams, Legion ball, and County League will be allowed on the diamonds. There are some key meetings coming up for these leagues and we need to know what our directive is. Mayor Jones said that the Park Boosters have cancelled their Spring Swing tournament but are still in discussion about the Booster Bash and Trenton Fest.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck reported that IHSA has cancelled all spring sporting events.

Attorney Heiligenstein updated the Council on the injunction filed by a state representative against the Governor regarding the “stay at home order”. The order was struck down, but that does not mean the order has been lifted.

City Administrator Marquart reported that the pool season has been cancelled this year. All persons related to our pool have been notified and the decision was not made lightly. Many area pools are taking the same course for this summer. We felt that one of the biggest challenges, even if we were to have an abbreviated season, would be social distancing.

In relation to the baseball/softball season, Mr. Marquart has been in contact with Paul Josias, the baseball/softball coordinator and together they made the decision to cancel city league. Beyond that we still reserve judgement. We are still looking into the possibility of an abbreviated season with games in July or August. We love having those activities in our park and if we can do anything to go forward with that we will. The soccer season is still in question and sign ups have been moved back into June. In relation to the concerts in the park, the June dates have been cancelled and moved to September. City Administrator Marquart continues to rely on guidance from Illinois Municipal League, the Governor’s office, Illinois Department of Public Health and our insurance carrier when it comes to making decision regarding public events.

Mayor Jones reminded the Council that the City has a liability here. There was a lengthy discussion about the potential baseball/softball season. It was decided to revisit this again at our next meeting. Maybe by then there will be more information enabling a solution everyone can work with.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Weh made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Mohme. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Resolution 20200427 Authorizing Agreement between City of Trenton and Good Energy L.P. for Electric and Natural Gas Supply for City Accounts. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Marquart opened a discussion about the appropriation ordinance in the packet. He explained that this is a statutory requirement and must be filed with the County. It is reflective of the tax levy and the budget, but by no means is our budget. The Mayor and City Administrator are still working on the actual budget and the Mayor said that he would like to have the Council be a part of that process, but that won’t likely happen until we are able to meet face-to-face. Mayor Jones stated that the actual budget may be fluid for the first 90 days of the fiscal year and that the spending freeze will stay in place through May, and possible for the whole fiscal year. The budget may evolve as our revenues come in. Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1768 Making Appropriations for the Corporate Purpose of Trenton, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and Ending April 30, 2021. Second Alderman Sims, all yes. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jones said that the two May meetings will likely be held electronically, and hopes that we will be able to meet face-to-face in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Sims made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk