

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 13, 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 7:05 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**BUSINESS PRIOR TO PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Jones opened a public hearing for the annexation of a parcel of land owned by Kevin and Teresa Haas. City Administrator Marquart gave the following background. This is a voluntary annexation that the Haas' have been working with the City to complete for over a year. They are currently on City water but not on sanitary sewer. The agreement includes tax abatement until it is reasonable for connection to the sanitary sewer. City Administrator Marquart recommends approval of the annexation.

There was no public input.

Alderman Weh made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes. The public hearing adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Alderman Sims made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1766 Authorizing the Execution of an Annexations Agreement Between the City and Kevin and Teresa Haas Regarding Parcel Number 05-05-19-204-001 Located in Clinton County, Illinois. Second Alderman Kniepman, all yes. Motion carried.

Alderman Weh made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1767 Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Trenton, Clinton County, Illinois Being Parcel Number 05-05-19-204-001. Second Alderman Sims, all yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones stated that this is the first meeting of this kind in the history of Trenton. We are all living a different normal amongst this corona virus/COVID 19. We are not sure how long this will continue and therefore we may have to continue to conduct our meetings in this fashion until we get word from the Governor that we no longer need to shelter in place. Alderman will continue to be given due notice with links and access codes to join the meetings. The public will also be given that information to be able to join our meetings. The current update on the corona virus is 22,025 positive cases of the virus and 794 deaths in the state of Illinois. Clinton County currently has 38 positive cases of the virus and Mayor Jones was pleased to announce that none of them were in the Trenton zip code. The Mayor went on to remind the Council that City Hall remains closed to the public but staff continues working full time. All guidelines are being

followed and business is being conducted by phone and drop box. City services have not be diminished or reduced. Questions remain about the park and activities there and when they can resume. Until we get more guidance they will remain closed. As of the Governors' shelter in place order the Mayor put the City's fiscal position on a hard freeze. Only essential purchases are being allowed. We are working on the budget and with this there is uncertainty about how this will impact our budget. Mayor Jones is happy to see the local businesses being patronized.

#### **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Weh gave a shout out to Mayor Jones and City staff for holding things together. The feedback he has received from the public has been positive about how we are handling things. He thanked staff. Alderman Woods also thanked staff. He appreciates the weekly updates being sent out. Mayor Jones stated that both the police and public works are out in the public daily and each of those departments are doing their best to continue to provide services while keeping themselves safe.

#### **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Chief Joellenbeck informed the Council that Mitchell Braun left our department on March 22, 2020 to take a job with another agency.

City Administrator Marquart thanked the Mayor and Alderman for the kind words; this has been a pressing time. He also thanked the department heads, Chief Joellenbeck, Kurt Wehrle and Karen Buzzard for how we have been handling the residents while continuing to provide services. We have had some projects that have been put on hold as a result of the spending freeze and we hope to be able to start those back up when things get back to normal. Clerk Buzzard informed City Administrator Marquart today that the first installment of business district taxes has been received. The total was just over \$3,900.00. That was for January collections. We should see money from February and part of March collections. As everyone knows, Dairy King is closed and they hope to open again in May if the shelter in place has been lifted. There is a myriad of rules and regulations for employment law related to the COVID19 and we are monitoring them constantly as they change daily. If need be we contact our legal advisors from our property/casualty/work comp carrier, Illinois Municipal League and our health care providers. We wade through everything we get and if need be put into place what needs to be done. As the Mayor stated earlier City Hall is still operating under regular hours and kudos to the residents who are used to coming in to take care of business. They are working well under our current conditions and understand the necessity to operate this way. City Administrator Marquart continues to give information to local businesses as well as the Chamber of Commerce on how to obtain assistance in the form of operating loans or payroll protections from the government. Everyone is working together to get through this.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The Consent Agenda included a motion to Approve Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to Approve Appointment of Patrick Bassler to Plan Commission - term to expire March 2023, a motion to Approve Appointment of Derek Reiking to Plan Commission – term to expire March 2023, a motion to Approve Bills for the Month of March, 2020, a motion to Approve Payrolls for the month of March 2020, and a motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2020.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Jones will provide to the Council the link and call in information for the next regular meeting in two weeks as we anticipate that we will still be required to conduct our meeting in this format. With that being said the agenda will be kept light unless there is something urgent that needs to be addressed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Deien made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

---

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk