

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING May 11, 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, May 11, 2020.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Police Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Treasurer Joe Palas, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, and Brian Kuhl

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS PRIOR TO PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Jones opened a public hearing for the approval of appropriations for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021. City Administrator Marquart apologized for getting ahead of ourselves last meeting and by not having a public hearing before approving the appropriations. He again explained the appropriation process and informed the Council that the document had not changed from what had been presented at the last meeting.

There was no public input.

Alderman Deien made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes. The public hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Alderman Sims 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 Weh, all yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones reviewed the COVID-19 numbers for Clinton County as of today. There was 1 new positive case, for a total of 124 positive cases; 39 have been released, 64 are quarantined at home, 9 are hospitalized and 12 deaths. We are seeing the numbers here in Clinton County decline, as well as the numbers in southern Illinois.

Mayor Jones reported that the Illinois American Legion has cancelled both Junior and Senior Legion baseball for the 2020 summer season. Therefore there will be no American Legion baseball in Trenton this summer. Per the Governor's order there will be no activity in our park through the month of May and not likely for the month of June. Mayor Jones asked that the Council agree that no determination for activity in the park for the month of July be made until the second meeting in June. It is hoped that by that time we will have more information to aide in making that decision. Alderman Mohme expressed reservations about using a specific date to make a decision as opposed to using the phase in which we are in per the Governor's plan for reopening. There was a lengthy discussion about when to make a decision. No one was opposed to the decision to not allow any park activities until we are in the Governor's phase 4 of his plan.

Mayor Jones stated that the Council may be faced with making more decisions like this. He went on to say that Wesclin High School requested the City's assistance in a graduation parade through Trenton. Mr. Marquart said that the school reached out to him today for the City to lead this parade through Trenton, the parade will also go through New Baden, and then back to the school. He anticipates traffic control will be required on our part as the school wishes to travel on IL State Route 160 and Il State Route 50. Typically this requires a resolution from the Council and approval from IDOT for the road closures. Mr. Marquart will reach out to the school tomorrow to get more details and also reach out to New Baden to see what their position is. As a possible alternative, Mr. Marquart will suggest the school use their parking lot for this event. Mayor Jones questioned how we can comply with the Governor's order of non-essential travel, social distancing, comply with the requirements of IDOT for parades in the time frame given. and yet avoid the public relations disaster we would face if we don't give in to the school. There was much discussion about irresponsibility on the part of the school and how to possibly strike a balance between supporting our school and following the orders given by the Governor. Everyone on the Council agreed that they support honoring our graduates but thought that an alternative solution could be sought.

Alderman Weh said that the American Legion has reached out to him to find out if they can have a Memorial Day celebration in the park/cemetery. Alderman Woods asked if more than 10 people would be in attendance. Alderman Weh said more than likely. Then have the event in the cemetery not in the park. Mayor Jones said that he turned down a local pastor that wanted to have a National Day of Prayer event in the park for the reason that there would be more than 10 people gathered. If someone were to get sick and be able to track that contact back to the event in the park the City would be liable. Attorney Joe Heiligenstein joined the meeting (7:48 p.m.) and confirmed that going against an order of the Governor would put the City at risk.

Mayor Jones circled back and informed Attorney Heiligenstein of the Council's decision to not allow any activities in the park until allowed to do so by the phased plan handed down by the Governor. Attorney Heiligenstein agreed that would be the best approach. Mayor Jones went on to say that it needs to be clear to the residents that liability exists as it relates to public property and it is dangerous to imply that the City in any way would not comply with the Governor's order. Attorney Heiligenstein explained that an executive order can be enforced just like a law. It is important that the City follow that.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Mohme received several complaints about how the April 28, 2020 tornado warning was handled. The National Weather Service issued a warning for Clinton County but Trenton did not set off our sirens. The Code Red system that we have also sent out a warning. Alderman Mohme would like to see a more streamlined policy as to when our warning system is set off.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Attorney Heiligenstein reported that the lawsuit filed by Representative Bailey is back in circuit court. The Illinois Supreme Court did not take the case because Representative Bailey withdrew the TRO (temporary restraining order) against the Governor. This case is set to be heard on May 15, 2020 back in the circuit court.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, motion carried. The Consent Agenda included a motion to Approve Minutes of the April 27, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to Approve Bills for the Month of April, 2020, a motion to Approve Payrolls for the month of April 2020, and a motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Weh made a motion to Approve Resolution 20200511 Authorizing The Execution of a Service Agreement for the Supply of Electricity for Residential and Small Commercial Retail Customers Who Do Not Opt Out of Such a Program. Second Alderman Woods, all yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jones wished Clerk Buzzard and all the ladies in the City a Happy Belated Mother's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Mohme made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk