

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING JULY 13, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Kyle Jones at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2020 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Police Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Treasurer Joe Palas, Mike Conley, and Officer Andrew Lampe

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones reviewed the June 2020 fund balance report. The general fund is in a better position than had been anticipated. The first installment of property taxes is due later this month and we should receive our first installment in August. The water fund is cause for concern and the sewer fund is good until we make our next loan payment.

Mayor Jones informed the Council that Administration has been very active during the quarantine. The City has applied for a grant from DCEO to assist with the downtown project. There are many municipalities that have applied, and we will be happy with any money that we receive. We are moving forward with the Zoning Code and the Plan Commission will be meeting later this week. We are still working on the Comprehensive Plan, and there are more projects that are being worked on that will be brought to the Council at a later date.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Administrator Marquart announced that we have had our third week of the Farmer's Market at the park. The farmer is very happy with the turn-out. He is there every Thursday from 3p.m. – 7p.m. We had our first concert in the park last Wednesday with about 55 socially distant people in attendance. The next concert will be July 22, 2020 and the concerts will continue on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in August and September.

Our Census Area Rep stopped in this morning and Trenton has a compliance rate of 76% right now. While that is great, we need everyone to fill out their census form. Census representatives will begin their door-to-door canvas in early August.

Administrator Marquart presented a rendering of a sign for the City's parking lot. The two-sided sign will identify the lot as public parking, which Mr. Marquart said was the result of business owners in the area. Quite often visitors assume the lot is a private lot and will not park there. The cost is estimated at \$2,500.00 and will be done by a local company.

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 the minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Council meeting, a motion to approve payrolls for the month of June 2020, a motion to approve the bills for the month of June 2020, and a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of May 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Jones explained that the OSLAD Grant that the Council had previously discussed applying for has been sidelined by the COVID outbreak. Currently there is no word on when that program will be back up and running. The City made the decision to not open the pool this season, and because of that we would like to take advantage of this time and go forward with some of the improvements that were part of our grant application. Mayor Jones went on to say that he believed the Park Boosters may be willing to contribute financially toward these improvements. City Administrator Marquart explained that at this time we would replace the decking around the pool, replace the liner in the pool and replace the fence around the pool. With the OSLAD Grant we were proposing to do more work, but at this time these are the projects that are most pressing and would provide the best benefit. The grant required matching funds from the City and the cost for us to complete these projects on our own is not estimated to exceed what our matching funds would have been. Our public works department would do the concrete tear out and fix the plumbing. We would go out for bids for the concrete and finishing. The pool liner is estimated at \$70,000.00 and we would bid the fence which is estimated at \$15,000.00. The total net cost to the City is estimated at \$155,000.00 to \$160,000.00 plus engineering. Mayor Jones said this would be paid with general fund surplus. Alderman Weh expressed concerns. He agrees that this work needs to be done but he is concerned about the overall financial picture for the City. We are in the midst of just the first wave of this COVID virus and he wants to be sure spending money here will not hamper funding for the downtown project. Mayor Jones said that the downtown project can be funded with a loan within TIF, the small capital improvement fund can be used, and the infrastructure fund can be used. Alderman Weh wanted to know if the money was put into the pool what the long-term viability of the pool was. If the pool is only open for another two years then this would not be a good investment. There was a lengthy discussion about the cost to run the pool. Clerk Buzzard will pull together numbers showing the effect of minimum wage increases on overall pool cost. HMG will put together the plans and request bids. It is estimated to be one month before work can begin.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Task Order #3 with HMG Engineering and to Authorize the City to go out for Bids for Swimming Pool Improvements. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes. Motion carried.

Administrator Marquart informed the Council that the City received the deed today for the property at 203 E. Broadway. The City would be responsible for the 2019 taxes and pro-rated 2020 taxes. The property is in the TIF district and this is a TIF eligible expense. This acquisition was significantly less expensive than going through the foreclosure process and we have better control over demolition.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Execute Deed for Acquisition of property at 203 E. Broadway. Second Alderman Sims, all yes. Motion carried. Mayor Jones stated that there is one more property on the list created by the Council and there will be updates on that coming soon.

A zoning hearing was conducted for the Special Use application submitted by Mr. Spaeth to construct a duplex in a SR-1 zoning district. Zoning Hearing officer VanLear Eckert recommends Council approve the special use. Alderman Weh questioned some water issues on that parcel. Those will be addressed with the contractor when plans are submitted to the City. Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1768 Granting Special Use to James Spaeth allowing Construction of a Duplex in a SR-1 Zoning District. Second Alderman Sims, all yes. Motion carried.

Officer Lampe was introduced to the Council and asked to give his background. Alderman Deien made a motion to Hire Andrew Lampe as a full time Officer. Second Alderman Weh, all yes. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Mohme made a motion to enter into closed session citing 5 ILCS 120/20(c)(2) Collective Bargaining. Second Alderman Woods, all yes. The Council entered closed session at 8:07 p.m.

The Council re-entered the regular meeting at 8:48 p.m. Roll Call: Deien, Kniepman, Mohme, Sims, Weh, Woods. All present.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve a Memorandum of Agreement. Second Alderman Sims. Mohme, yes, Sims, yes, Deien, yes, Woods, yes, Weh, yes, Kniepman, no. Motion carried.

Alderman Mohme asked what the rate of pay for our part-time officers is currently. Chief Joellenbeck answered \$20.00 per hour but that will need to change. New Baden has a graduated scale.

Alderman Mohme asked if we have looked at options for health insurance for the City employees. Administrator Marquart stated that we just renewed our policy July 1. We are pooled with other municipalities throughout the state. Our renewal rate was 4.7% with no plan design changes. The healthcare provided is exceptional and if we look elsewhere we will lose continuity and probably won't get the level of coverage that we currently have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Woods made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk