

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING JULY 27, 2020

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, July 27, 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, Treasurer Joe Palas, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Don Williams, Phil Schmidt. Mike Conley, and Officer Andrew Lampe

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Jones recognized each of the winners of the Trenton Tumbleweeds Pretty Porches contest.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Jones called upon Don Williams and Phil Schmidt of the Trenton Park Boosters. Mr. Williams stated that the slide and swing set in the City park are old and no longer meet current safety standards. They need to be replaced, and the Park Boosters would like to do that with some assistance from the City. The Park Boosters are working with Bergfeld Recreation and they came out to assess the area and quote new equipment. The Boosters would like for the City to remove the old equipment and pour a 10'x4' sidewalk from the current walking trail along 4th street to the new swing set area. The sidewalk request would ensure ADA compliance. The quote from Bergfeld was just under \$16,000.00 and includes installation of the new equipment and landing areas around the equipment. The Park Boosters have approved the financing of this project and would like to have the sidewalk in prior to installation. Bergfeld has a four to six-week lead time on installation right now. This will be on the next meeting's agenda for approval. Mayor Jones asked the Park Boosters about some funding they may have for the pool upgrades that the City will be doing. Mr. Schmidt said that the Park Boosters did vote to assist the City with that project. The Park Boosters are in possession of funds from a now defunct Trenton Pool Foundation. Mr. Schmidt believes the amount to be either \$42,000.00 or \$44,000.00.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones said that a preliminary review of the July IPTIP funds is higher than July 2019 receipts were. This is due in part to new revenue sources being cannabis tax and North Business District tax. May 2020 was actually the worst month for our revenues since this pandemic has begun. Next month we should get the first installment of property taxes. By end of August we should be in good shape financially.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Attorney Heiligenstein reported that the federal lawsuit is moving forward. He is hopeful that this will be before a judge this fall.

Additionally, Attorney Heiligenstein was able to get a pre-trial date for August on the Knopp property. He is hopeful for a resolution on that

Administrator Marquart informed the Council that Bryce Cooley of Cooley Farms had his truck and refrigerated trailer stolen over the weekend from the Soulard area. As a result, he will not be setting up his farmers market here in Trenton for the foreseeable future.

The property at 203 E Broadway was tested for asbestos and two areas were found. The tile floor and the caulking around all of the windows. Quotes for remediation are being sought.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has informed the City that another “Rebuild Illinois” payment will be sent to the City by the end of the month. Mayor Jones informed the Council that with the Knopp property being worked to come into compliance the 5 worst properties in town identified by the Council will be complete. This will aid in our code enforcement efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme asked about a spot on Harrison St. that dug up by Ameren. Will that be fixed by the City? Administrator Marquart will check into that.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve MFT Purchase for Road Repairs 2020. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Marquart informed the Council about a company called Retail Strategies. They are a national marketing firm and market municipalities for economic development. Retail Strategies market primarily to retail and restaurant developers. They would do an analysis and identify 15 businesses whose model match our metrics and then reach out to those businesses and sell Trenton. In addition, they would provide us with a gap analysis. This would identify what our residents travel outside our area to purchase. The annual fee of \$25,000.00 for the basic level of service has been built into the budget. Mayor Jones stated that the Council has worked hard to put into place strong economic incentives. We don’t have the resources to do this type of work on our own. The fee will be paid from General Fund and TIF Fund. Administrator Marquart emphasized that this is a long-term commitment. Business have made location decisions for development 3-4 years out, so we need to get things rolling for the potential for new development 5+ years down the road.

Our current street signs are faded and not up to regulatory code. Administrator Marquart has received complaints so he has gotten a quote to replace the signs from Signs & Designs here in Trenton. To replace a total of 335 signs with new high reflectivity signs, including installation would be \$11,117.85. The plan would be to replace the signs along Broadway and Madison first with signs bit larger than ones that will be replaced in the residential areas. TIF can pay for the signs within the TIF district, the business district can pay for the signs in that district and small capital improvement can pay for the difference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Deien made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Weh. All yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk