

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 10, 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, August 10, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Mark Brown, Mike Conley, and Officer Andrew Lampe

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Jones gave an update on the City's fiscal position. The general fund through July has a surplus of \$24,000.00. The City currently has more in unrestricted reserves than the entire prior fiscal year. The IPTIP funds, not including the business district or cannabis receipts, for May 2020 vs May 2019 were down 28.9%. For June 2020 vs June 2019 were up 2.13% and for July 2020 vs July 2019 were up 1.03%. The increase in June and July were in sales tax receipts.

Mayor Jones stated that our park programs are changing rapidly. Soccer this year will be modified with just some practice games for certain age groups. We are following the Governor's orders for recreation teams.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Woods asked if the W 3<sup>rd</sup> street drainage problem had been looked at. Administrator Marquart and Public Works Superintendent Wehrle have looked at that. The area is very flat, and everyone's sump pumps drain to the curb. There is no storm sewer in that area and no area to put in a catch basin either. In some spots the curbing even looks to tilt toward the yards. This would not be a quick fix. Engineering would need to be done to redesign all the curbing and add storm sewers.

Alderman Weh wanted an update of the 4<sup>th</sup> street project. Administrator Marquart said that it is 99% complete. Public works just needs to go back and smooth out rough spots where the old pavement meets the new pavement.

Mayor Jones reported that two property owners called about drainage problems after the 3.5" rain Saturday night. In years past after a hard rain like that this room would be filled with angry residents. Kudos to the progress done by public works.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Public Works Superintendent Wehrle said that they finished the work on N. Jefferson today. He said there is a misconception about what to expect with the millings that he is using on the roads now. Millings are not nice and black like new asphalt and that is what residents expect. There is a significant difference in price from millings to hot mix. Public works has tested the millings on several spots throughout town and they are holding up well. Superintendent Wehrle would like to try millings this year and if the Council is not satisfied then asphalt can be laid right on top of

this. He presented a spreadsheet showing the difference in the amount and cost of various materials from oil/chip to millings to asphalt.

The DARE officer will not be soliciting donations from the area businesses this year.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Weh made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The Consent Agenda included the Minutes of the July 27, 2020 Regular Council meeting, the Payrolls for July 2020, the bills for July 2020, and the Treasurer's Report for June 2020.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Authorize Trenton Park Boosters to replace slide and swing set at Trenton Park. Second Alderman Sims, all yes. Motion carried.

Alderman Woods made a motion to Approve Quote from Signs & Designs for the replacement of street signs in the amount of \$11,117.85. Second Alderman Kniepman. Mayor Jones stated a portion of this could be paid from TIF and Business District Funds. Alderman Deien wanted to know if the names on the signs would be verified with Clinton County 911. Yes. Roll Call: Sims, yes, Woods, yes, Weh, yes, Kniepman, yes, Deien, abstain, Mohme, abstain. Motion carried.

There was a lengthy discussion on the contract to hire Retail Strategies. Some Alderman were concerned that numbers in the study may be skewed because of COVID. Buying trends have changed and may not go back to what they were. The data gathered will take everything into consideration. Mayor Jones stated that our sales tax has not fallen off, out proximity to St. Louis and Scott Air Force Base has not changed. Those are also taken into consideration in the data that we will receive. Mayor Jones feels that it is easier to attract retail to Trenton than it would be to attract light industry. The climate in Illinois is not helpful to industry. There was quite a bit more discussion on the pros and cons of hiring a firm such as Retail Strategies. Mayor Jones emphasized that the Council has taken the steps to put into place some wonderful economic development tools. Let's use them. This led into a discussion on the spending freeze. The Mayor reminded the Council that they have spending discretion. Mayor Jones finally called for a motion to Approve Contract with Retail Strategies in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Initial Study. Alderman Sims made that motion. Alderman Woods seconded the motion. Roll call: Woods, yes, Weh, yes, Deien, no, Kniepman, yes, Sims, yes, Mohme, no. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Marquart said that the National League of Cities sponsors a service line warranty program. Certain vendors would provide insurance for repairs or replacement to a residential water line, sewer line, leaky pipes inside your home, etc. You can get coverage for one, two or all three of their services. Residents call contractors that have a contract with the insurance company for repairs. The City would bear no cost. We would enter into a marketing agreement and the insurance company would get our contact info. In turn for every resident that purchased the coverage the City would get \$.50 per month. The Council had concerns about the solicitation of our residents and whether any of our local contractors would be on the approved contractor list for repairs. After further discussion it was decided that we would not pursue this.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Wehrle stated that there is an extra captains chair on the paver and if any alderman wants to see how it works, they are welcome to ride along.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Deien made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Mohme. All yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk