

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 25, 2021

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, January 25, 2021 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Treasurer Joe Palas, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Wehrle, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Garrett Frerker, Sheila Frerker, Mike Conley, Mark Brown, and officer Lampe.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Garrett Frerker addressed the Council regarding a ticket he received recently for operating a farm vehicle on city streets. Mr. Frerker was contacted today by his part time employer John Schwankhaus of JDS Auto Body and informed that per a conversation with the Trenton Police department, Mr. Frerker is no longer allowed to respond to tow calls from the City of Trenton. Mr. Frerker stated that the Trenton Police Department also relayed that same information to the Clinton County Sheriff's office. Mr. Frerker had a very good meeting this morning with City Administrator John Marquart regarding the ticket, but now this has progressed from a civil matter to a personal matter and that is why he is here now. Mayor Jones informed Mr. Frerker if he wishes to pursue the ticket that must be done through the courts. Mayor Jones stated that he was not sure if he had the authority to rescind a ticket. There was much more discussion about farm vehicles, tickets, and the Trenton Police Department's involvement with Mr. Frerker's livelihood. Mark Brown stated that the Mayor took care of one of Mark's tickets at one time. Sheila Frerker wants more investigation into how employees handle events. Attorney Heiligenstein assured everyone that this will be investigated further.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Jones thanked Kurt Wehrle, Brent Woods, Phil Schmidt, and Ryan Venhaus for planting trees in the park this weekend.

The Park Boosters have made their contribution toward the upgrades of the pool. Thank you, Park Boosters.

In response to some public comments regarding tickets issued by the police, in 2020 Trenton police issued 147 speeding tickets. On highway 50 the speed averaged 22.8 miles over the posted speed limit and non-highway speeds averaged 16.7 over the posted speed limit. There was a total of 256 tickets issued for the year.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Weh stated that other communities are hosting COVID vaccine administration events, but there are no formal plans here in Trenton. He has talked with Clinton County Health Department and they are willing to work with us. Why are we not doing this? Administrator Marquart stated that we have not received any word from Clinton County Health yet. Chief Joellenbeck stated that the Clinton County Health department would bring a POD to a location in Trenton. The City would be responsible for securing the location, doing all screening, administering the shots, and monitoring the recipients. That presents a lot of liability on the City. Administrator Marquart will investigate this further.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck updated the Council on suspects in custody for a couple of separate burglaries over the last couple of months.

Attorney Heiligenstein had no update on the Tri-Township lawsuit. In reference to the Knopp property, Attorney Heiligenstein expects a hearing soon due to non-compliance.

Administrator Marquart stated that because the state changed requirements relating to liquor delivery, we need to look at our ordinance. In addition, there have been changes regarding pan handling on highways, so we will need to look at our highway solicitation ordinance too.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Weh. All yes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jones said a hot topic right now is to cut your cable and subscribe to streaming services. Currently streaming services are not taxed in Trenton, and that is an option available if the Council wishes to pursue it. Currently our cable franchise tax receipts have not dropped off, but that does not mean they won't in the future. Mayor Jones is not in favor of taking this to a vote right now because there is no revenue decline. If technology changes this is an option to replace lost revenue.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Woods made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk