

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING May 24, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Andy Weh at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Berry, Brown, Deien, Kniepman, Mohme All present

Also present were City Administrator John Marquart, Mike Conley, Chief Joellenbeck, Attorney Heiligenstein, Diane Palas, Dusty Sampson, Officer Hill, members of the American Legion and public.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Weh said that we are here tonight to honor Joe Palas and to thank his wife Diane for allowing Joe time to serve his country and our city.

Dan Purdy with Trenton American Legion Post 778 presented to Diane Palas an American Legion Service Award honoring Joe Palas. Diane addressed the Legion members present and the Mayor and Council.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Brown said that a bench at the park needs to be replaced. City Administrator Marquart will take care of it.

Alderman Mohme asked for an update on the pool. City Administrator Marquart said the concrete is done and the drains will be connected this week. The new fence and lighting will also be installed this week. We are still waiting on the permit for the baby pool and the big issue is the pool liner. It has been difficult to get a date for that. We are also waiting on the diving board.

Alderman Mohme said that the street study is complete. Do we have the ratings? City Administrator Marquart said that the engineers will be here at the second meeting in June to give a presentation. The overall rating is a 55 with our goal to have an overall rating of 70.

Alderman Deien wanted to know if a post on Facebook would be made about the delay in opening the pool. City Administrator Marquart said not yet.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Attorney Heiligenstein said that the Tri-Township lawsuit is moving slowly.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2021, Regular Council meeting. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Resolution #20210524 Declaring 202 East Broadway as Surplus Property. Second Alderman Mohme. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve Appointment of Dusty Sampson to fill vacancy as Alderman, Ward 2. Second Alderman Deien, all yes. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED ALDERMAN

Mayor Weh asked Dusty Sampson to give a brief bio of himself. Mr. Sampson is retired military and currently works for a contractor on base. He and his family love Trenton, and Mr. Sampson looks forward to being a part of the City Council. Clerk Buzzard swore in newly appointed Alderman Sampson.

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Mohme made a motion to enter Closed Session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body. Second Alderman Brown, all yes. Motion carried. The Council entered closed session at 7:23 p.m.

The Council re-entered the regular meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Roll Call: Berry, Brown, Deien, Kniepman, Mohme, Sampson All present.

ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Appointment and Employment Contract of John Marquart as City Administrator. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried.

Mayor Weh stated that he is removing from the agenda the motion for appointment and approval of employment contract of Chris Joellenbeck as Chief of Police, and this will be put onto the agenda of the first meeting in June.

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Appointment and Employment Contract of Karen Buzzard as City Collector. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, motion carried.

Mayor Weh congratulated City Administrator Marquart and City Collector Buzzard. Alderman Berry thanked them for all they do.

Former Mayor Kyle Jones wanted the Council to know that he is here on his own accord, no one asked him to come. All three appointments on the docket tonight deserve to be appointed. He spoke of the experience each brings to their respective position, their work ethic and professionalism. Mr. Jones urged the Council to support the Mayor and his department heads. Mayor Weh appreciated Former Mayor Jones' comments.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh announced that he will have regular office hours Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and will be available outside of those hours too. Tonight begins the work on the people's agenda. There is no time for personal vendettas and bickering; constructive conversations can be had at any time. Tonight is a time to unify, let's talk, let's find some common ground.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget about the Memorial Day celebration in the park on Monday at 10:00 am. Lt. Col. Brendan Hopkins of the 458th Airlift Squadron will be the honorary speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Mohme. All yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk