

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 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, October 25, 2021, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Berry, Brown, Deien, Kniepman, Mohme, Sampson All present

Also present was City Administrator John Marquart, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Superintendent of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Weh congratulated Caitlyn Carroll with Ivy & Lace on a successful Harvest Hop last Saturday. It was well attended. The 5K run was huge success. If anyone has any ideas or feedback get them to the mayor as he will be having a follow up meeting with Caitlyn next week.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Brown read a prepared statement regarding the practice of this administration of bringing items straight to Council for votes without having had prior knowledge or discussion. He compared this practice to the prior administration's practice of discussing items at a meeting and acting on that item at a subsequent meeting. Alderman Brown feels the current practice does not give the Aldermen nor the public a chance to fully discuss something before action is taken, and this could possibly lead to costly decisions down the road. He noted several times this has happened and noted that none of those times was the item an emergency. He went on to say that he may be inclined to vote against an item on principle if presented this way. Mayor Weh said that all information is given to the Council, but he will work on getting it to them in a more timely fashion. If an Alderman sees something on an agenda for action that has not been discussed, call him and he will pull it from the agenda. Attorney Heiligenstein informed the Council that they could make a motion to "Continue to a date certain" any item they do not want to vote on at that meeting. This will simply postpone that vote to a certain date. There is not requirement to go forward with an item just because it is on an agenda. Mayor Weh confirmed that items previously acted upon with prior discussion were not emergencies, that staff just wanted to make things move forward.

Clarification on comments at the last meeting regarding police vehicles was asked for. Mayor Weh explained that a prior Council approved the purchase of a police vehicle from Deien Chevrolet. With the situation surrounding availability of vehicles Nathan Deien suggested ordering a second vehicle right away. He is aware that Council has not approved a second vehicle, and we are not obligated to purchase. The City has the first right of refusal. He ordered this vehicle so that the city would not have to wait possibly up to a year for delivery. Alderman Mohme asked if the Council was going to act on this anytime soon. City Administrator Marquart said it would be on the next agenda. Alderman Sampson is not in favor of voting until we have an idea of when vehicles will be delivered.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

The audit will be presented at the November 22, 2021, meeting.

Superintendent Brockhahn reported that sidewalks on 4<sup>th</sup> street have been repaired, milling began today and paving will begin either tomorrow or Wednesday. The new mowers arrived today. Dirt has been moved to behind 789 W Broadway and that work will continue weather permitting.

Chief Joellenbeck reminded everyone that this is scam season. Social Security will not call you.

City Administrator Marquart has been talking with Clinton County Health Department about hosting a COVID booster clinic here if there is enough interest from the public. Council was on board. The County Health department work through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, who take care of everything. The city just needs to provide the location. Mr. Marquart will reach out to St. Mary's Church to see if they would be willing to allow the use of their building again. It was suggested to create a poll or goggle form to post on our Facebook page to gauge interest from the public.

A business in town has inquired about a walking art show with each location offering alcohol. Our current liquor code does not allow for a "Sip & shop", so the Council was asked whether they would want to pursue modifying to allow for this. Consensus was to pursue this further. Bring back more details and an outline of the new classification.

Last week the Illinois South Tourism Bureau had a Trenton takeover day of their Facebook page. Trenton was featured with four posts throughout the day. The posts reached 8,698 followers and was liked/shared by 269 followers.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1785 Adopting Whistleblower Protections. Second Alderman Mohme. City Administrator Marquart explained this policy will name him as the auditor for any complaints against a city employee or elected official. Due to a potential conflict of interest, he is seeking a neutral person for that role. The procedures for filing a complaint are not yet set, and when that is complete, and a neutral auditor is found, the Council will be asked to codify that.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk