

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 22, 2022

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, August 22, 2022, 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, Officer Lampe, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun, and Belinda McAllister of Heartlands Conservancy

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh commended the park boosters and all volunteers for a fantastic weekend. The Trenton Fest was wonderful. He also thanked Superintendent Andy Brockhahn and the public works department on making the park beautiful. Phil Schmitt fell ill today and had an emergency procedure. We wish him a speedy recovery.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Sampson questioned on behalf of many residents on Facebook why the city is not spraying for mosquitoes. Mayor Weh said that the Clinton County health department informed him that spraying does more harm than good to the environment.

Alderman Brown asked Administrator Marquart to explain the situation with Jerry Middeke. Administrator Marquart said that when the Wildwood subdivision was put in the storm sewer was undersized. Mr. Middeke was contacted by the city back in 2016 and told to rectify the situation. That has not yet happened. Now there are sinkholes, pipes are not connected to each other, there is not proper backfill and water does not drain properly. We will have the line televised so that we can see where the problems are and share that information with Mr. Middeke. The system was installed without city approval and was not inspected by the city. Once repairs are made the city will take responsibility for the system, so we want to be sure that that it is right.

Alderman Mohme said that he enjoyed the Trenton Fest parade so thank you to all involved in that.

Alderman Mohme wanted to know if the city would be proceeding with any of the downtown improvements now that we have been informed that we are not going to receive any grant money. Mayor Weh said that we will put together the best parts of both grant applications and create a plan C. TWM Engineering will put this together and it will include all curbing, sidewalks, bump outs, electric car charging stations, and green spaces. Administrator Marquart is looking at bond options and local loans for financing of this project.

Alderman Mohme asked if there was any part of the Safe Routes to Schools project that we would plan to do without outside funding. Administrator Marquart said that we will apply for this grant again when it opens next year.

When asked about tasers, Administrator Marquart informed the council that he has feelers out to get the decision by our insurance carrier changed. The Chief is working on ways to keep the price tag near the \$11,000 mark and still get equipment.

Alderman Deien asked Superintendent Brockhahn to explain the lighted crosswalk options. He is going to explore the glass beads. They are mixed into paint and applied to crosswalks. The beads run about \$150 per bad and the dispenser is about \$400. Paint has been hard to get this year so only the end stripes were painted.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

City Clerk Buzzard announced that petitions for the April 2023 Consolidated Election can begin to be circulated September 20, 2022. One aldermanic seat in each ward will be up for election.

Superintendent Brockhahn said that public works continues to asphalt patch roads and N Adams and N Jefferson will be paved beginning Wednesday of this week.

Administrator Marquart said milling will begin Wednesday on N Adams and N Jefferson. Thursday paving will begin, and the project will wrap up by the weekend. He hopes to advertise for bids for the baby pool next week with council approving a contract at the second meeting in September and opening of the newly constructed baby pool next season.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Deien, all yes. Motion carried.

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Resolution 20220822 Releasing Certain Closed Session Minutes. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes. Motion carried.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Resolution 20220822-01 Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recording of Closed Session Minutes. Second Alderman Berry, all yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Belinda McAllister with Heartlands Conservancy spoke to council about Trenton being a Tree City USA. Last year we became certified as a tree city, now we need to recertify. This will require us to establish a tree board, add “forestry” to the name of the public works department, establish a policy for forestry in Trenton, and put into our annual budget 2% per capita toward forestry. Ms. McAllister explained that “in-kind” labor may be used for the budget requirement. Logs of all time spent must be kept. The city has the opportunity to receive up to 300 free trees twice a year. There was much discussion about the types of trees, the inventory necessary to recertify, the in-kind labor and potential grants.

Alderman Sampson made a motion to appoint John Marquart to the SLM Board for a one-year term. Second Alderman Mohme, all yes. Motion carried.

Administrator Marquart stated that the Finance Committee met earlier tonight and discussed the breakout of the Capital Improvement Fund. Under Mayor Jones the Infrastructure, Small Capital Improvement, and Equipment Funds were rolled into the Capital Improvement Fund. Alderman Mohme would like to see those broken back apart at the start of the next fiscal year, except for the small capital improvement fund. It was determined that does not need to exist. The committee cited better budgeting and transparency. Mayor Weh does not understand the transparency comment. He went on to say that council has a list of projects, all in pencil so they could change. He believes this is a non-productive move and makes Administrator Marquart less efficient. Mayor Weh asked for the true issue at hand here. He went on to say that council has the ability to vote which fund to use for payment of items when they come up, and he said that if funds are

separated out then the council will cause grid lock when it comes to purchases on down the road. Alderman Mohme asked what kind of grid lock. Mayor Weh responded arguments over which fund to use for payments. Alderman Kniepman stated that the breakout of funds would create a clearer vision for the future, no arguments. A lengthy, lively discussion ensued.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk