

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2023

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, April 24, 2023, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Director of Public Works and Forestry Andy Brockhahn, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, and Mark Litteken.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mark Litteken talked to the Council about the status of the Ameren Suresee-Aviston 138K transmission line. Ameren has filed with the ICC their preferred route for this line. It will come within 100 feet of the western edge of K&D Countertop on the west side of Trenton. A group called Citizens United for Responsible Energy Development in Illinois (CURED IL) has been formed in opposition to this line. They have been meeting for quite a while to formulate an action plan to stop this project. Mr. Litteken explained that this is not the first time that Ameren has proposed this type of project in Clinton County. Back in the late 90's the local opposition group was successful in getting the courts to stop the project. Attorney John Long has been hired to represent this group. He was also counsel the last time. Mr. Litteken went on to explain the difference between transmission and distribution. When the power goes out it is because of a distribution problem. Very seldomly is it a transmission problem. This will not benefit the City of Trenton. We will still only get power from a single source, Aviston. The next meeting of the CURED IL group will be on May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Hidden Lake Winery. Mr. Litteken was asked if there had been any drop off in opposition now that Ameren has filed with the ICC. He said no, there are actually people from Highland that are joining the effort. Mayor Weh thanked Mr. Litteken for being instrumental in leading this cause and for coming tonight to update the Council.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh gave kudos to Officer Mora and Chief Joellenbeck for a very well attended DARE Fish Fry last Friday.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Brown stated that the construction on the baby pool has begun. He wanted to know if there would be core drilling necessary for the installation of the shade structure at the baby pool. Director Brockhahn said yes.

Alderman Brown also wanted to be sure that the City was OK with the proposed solution from Mr. Middeke for the drainage problems in the Wildwood subdivision. Director Brockhahn stated that he is fine with the proposed plan, and that our engineer has also reviewed the plan and he is OK with it. Mr. Middeke was supposed to contact the affected property owners to let them know of the plan and he was supposed to send a copy of that correspondence to the City for approval first. To date we have not seen any of that.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director Brockhahn restated that the baby pool was poured today, and the apron will be poured tomorrow. That will need to sit for 28 days before it can be painted, so the baby pool may not open with the main pool.

Chief Joellenbeck said that Officer Mora asked him to thank everyone for attending the DARE Fish Fry.

Attorney Heiligenstein said that he met with Mr. Fields, the FOP representative, recently and we may need a closed session soon to discuss further negotiations.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and motion to Approve Appointment of Rob Jervis to Plan Commission for term to expire March 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1820 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of The City of Trenton Code of Ordinances. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, motion carried.

Mayor Weh informed the Council that he, Director Brockhahn and Clerk Buzzard have met to discuss the financing of the engineering fees for the water infrastructure project that would come due in fiscal year 2024 if Council decides to move forward with this project. There was discussion about the project in whole and the increase to the total project cost if we pushed back the engineering for a year. Everyone agreed that this project should become priority and we should move forward. Clerk Buzzard gave a breakdown of where the engineering fees could be paid from and assured Council that the engineering fees would be reimbursable through the loan process. Alderman Mohme wants to look at water rates now so that we aren't forced to make a huge increase to meet debt service requirements. The next step would be to enter into a contract with Hoerner & Shifrin for engineering services of this project. We will also reach out to them for an estimate of engineering fees for fiscal year 2025 so that can be properly budgeted for. Clerk Buzzard will email Council with her breakdown for payment of the FY24 engineering fees.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve Forgiveness of Interfund loan between Recreation Fund and General Fund in an amount of \$471,815.00. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderman Berry stated that parking in the downtown area is still a problem, even with our parking lot and asked whether the City has ever considered purchasing the empty lot west of City Hall from Scott Credit Union to convert that into a parking lot. Mayor Weh said he would reach out to them to see if they would be interested in selling.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk