

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 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, May 8, 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, Angie Chute, Larry Davis, Treasurer Linda Reibold, and Jeremy Rakers

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

Angie Chute with the Trenton Library addressed the council about their tax levy. She presented a handout showing the levy amount and rate from 2016 to present. She questioned why the rate decreased over the years. Mayor Weh asked the budget officer, Karen Buzzard, to explain. She gave a brief explanation on how the tax levy is calculated. Angie, and Larry Davis, a member of the library board, continued to question why the rate is decreasing. After more discussion, Ms. Buzzard said that she would send Angie information on how to calculate the levy and that the library can calculate their own going forward.

Mr. Davis then asked the city to purchase a home located across the street from the library. He would like to have the city tear down the home and put in a parking lot for the library. On the nights of their board meetings parking is a problem. Mayor Weh informed the council that he had had this discussion with Ms. Chute and Mr. Davis before, and at that time they were informed that the city did not have in the budget money to purchase this home. Mayor Weh said that has not changed. When asked if the library could contribute toward this project, Mr. Davis said that the library board voted not to. He went on to say the library can't own property and that is why the city has to purchase the home. Ms. Chute said that she can get grants for some of this project. She did not know if they were matching grants or the amount of the grants. There was general discussion about the number of parking spaces this area would net. Mayor Weh wrapped up by again stating that this is not in our budget.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh said tonight we will be swearing in a new council. He thanked the outgoing council. It is difficult to get people to run for office and anyone willing to run should be commended. Mayor Weh congratulated the new council and said there is a lot of work to do over the next two years. Mayor Weh always has an open door, or just call his cell phone. He appreciates all that Alderman Kniepman has done for the council and values his opinion.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Sampson also thanked Alderman Kniepman for his service and went on to say that he learned a lot from him. Alderman Kniepman said that is has been an honor to serve. A lot has been accomplished during his term on the council.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director of Public Works and Forestry Brockhahn said that the baby pool has been poured. The plumbing work will be completed in a day or so and the electrical work could possibly be done by the end of the week. The baby pool must sit for 28 days before it can be painted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Berry. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2023, Regular Council Meeting and motion to Approve Payrolls for the month of April 2023, a motion to Approve Bills for the month of April 2023, and a motion to Approve Treasurer's Report for month of March 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Authorize Staff to enter into contract with Horner & Shiffrin for engineering services for Water Infrastructure Improvement Project. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried.

Director Brockhahn informed council that as Jeff Reitz with TWM engineering is preparing our bid specifications for this year's Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) program, he has asked Mr. Reitz to request bids for both slag and chips. There is a bit of a price difference, slag is \$26.60 per ton and chips are \$22.05 per ton. For the quantities needed this could amount to about \$2,400 additional if we bid slag. Per the engineer, slag is less dusty, darker in color, and lasts longer. Director Brockhahn is asking for guidance from the council so we can get this out for bid. After some discussion the preference was to bid slag.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED ALDERMEN

Clerk Buzzard swore in newly elected Aldermen, Mohme, Sampson, and Rakers.

ROLL CALL

Berry, Brown, Deien, Mohme, Rakers, Sampson All present.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve Resolution 20230508 Approving Preliminary Plat for Wildwood Estates 2nd Addition. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Mohme made a motion to Approve Appointment of Mark Brown as Trenton Representative on SLM Board term to expire May 2025. Second Alderman Deien. Roll call: Deien, yes, Mohme, yes, Rakers, yes, Sampson, yes, Berry, yes, Brown, abstain. Motion carried.

Mayor Weh informed the council that there is currently one opening on the Plan Commission and we have two applicants. The mayor would like to appoint both applicants to the Plan Commission. There are times that it is difficult to get a quorum. With the increase in the number on this board, the number required for a quorum would also increase. It was suggested to send an email to all current Plan Commission members to see if anyone would be willing to step down. This will be on the next agenda for action.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk