

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 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, August 14, 2023, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Berry, Brown, Deien, Mohme (absent), Rakers, Sampson

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Officer Hill and Officer Salvi

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh announce that the Clinton County League baseball championship game will be held Sunday, August 20 in Bartelso. Trenton will face Bartelso in that game. It originally was scheduled to be played in Trenton, but with the fireman muster Saturday night being held on the outfield of the diamond, the diamond will not be playable on Sunday. The city is cooperating with the County League on this change of schedule.

Trenton Fest is this weekend. Come out and work a shift. All proceeds benefit our park.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Brown asked for an update on the oil and chip project. Director Brockhahn will talk more on this later.

Alderman Rakers was contacted by resident Jerry Wieter about raking the rocks out of his ditch. Director Brockhahn said that we are not in the lawn care business and that Mr. Wieter has the best kept ditch in town. If his street is on the list for oil and chip this year it will be swept first to pick up loose rock.

Alderman Sampson appreciates the road work being done prior to oil and chip this year. Director Brockhahn said that next year Main Street at Broadway will need to be milled out. He will get holes filled with hot mix prior to the parade Saturday.

Alderman Deien reported that the voice box message that could be added to the lighted caution signs would cost \$1,295.00 per side. The signs have been ordered and this option needs to be ordered when the signs are ordered. If the Council wants this option, then another set of signs will need to be ordered and Director Brockhahn will mount the original signs along Broadway somewhere. The decision was made to go with the original order and have some signs made to mount below the flashing signs.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director Brockhahn said that Rooters Asphalt was here today, and they milled S. Monroe. That street is now ready for oiling. Oiling will take place on September 6, 7, and 8 and street sweeping will be done on September 1. The map of the roads to be oiled will be placed on our website, we will make Facebook posts, we will send out a Code Red announcement and we will have maps at City Hall.

Ameren will be in town soon to do tree trimming.

IDOT will be replacing the culvert on Old Route 50 near Westgate Baptist Church. Old Route 50 will be closed while they do this work, which may take up to a week.

Last Thursday Tim Straszacker with Horner & Shifrin met with Director Brockhahn and staff to discuss the water infrastructure project. It was decided to move the water tower to the south end of the city property. This could result in a savings of up to \$25,000.00 for various reasons. The company that will do the boring for soil samples will be out to do that work on August 24th. They plan to do 3 bores. Any additional bores that we may want done will cost between \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 each. The council said the three included in the proposal will be fine.

Tomorrow IDOT will bore at the bridge over Old Route 50 near the water vault.

Alderman Rakers left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Alderman Brown asked if there was any update on the Ameren transmission line proposal. Director Brockhahn said that he received an email recently, but Trenton was not included in the list of those opposing this transmission line.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, Rakers and Mohme absent. The consent agenda included a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2023 Regular Council meeting, a motion to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2023 Special Council meeting, a motion to approve Bills for the month of July 2023, a motion to approve Payrolls for the month of July 2023, and a motion to approve Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1825 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Rakers and Mohme absent.

Clerk Buzzard informed the Council that Sybil Conley recently requested the final redevelopment payment for Press Coffee's TIF agreement with the city. Press Coffee ceased operation in March of 2023, and per the agreement does not qualify for that payment. Mayor Weh and Clerk Buzzard recently met with owners Mike and Sybil Conley to work out an amendment to the agreement. The city will give the Conleys six months from August 1, 2023 to get the coffee shop back open. Upon opening, the City will release the final payment, but will add one year from that date to the end of the contract term. If for any reason the coffee shop closes within that year the Conleys will have to repay the city the final payment amount. Clerk Buzzard clarified some points with Council, and they are fine with sending this agreement to the Conleys for their approval. If the Conleys approve the agreement then this will be presented to the Council for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Weh called for a brief recess at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:50 p.m. Roll Call: Berry, Brown, Deien, Mohme (absent), Rakers, Sampson.

Chief Joellenbeck said currently we pay our part time officers \$20.00 per hour. Surrounding communities pay in the area of \$22.00 to \$25.00 per hour. Whatever we pay it will still be cheaper than paying overtime and benefits. Alderman Sampson asked if there was a cap on the number of hours a part time officer could work. Chief Joellenbeck said 1500 over all agencies

they work for. Anything over 40 hours in a week must be paid at overtime rate. Alderman Deien said that increasing part time officer pay has been brought up in the past and Chief stated then that no officers are willing to work part time for other agencies. What has changed now? Chief Joellenbeck said that Officer Hill is willing to pick up shifts but not for \$20.00/hr. Alderman Deien is willing to increase pay to fix the problem. Chief Joellenbeck stated again that this will not fix the problem, no officers are willing to work. Alderman Brown asked the Chief for his suggestion for the rate. No answer was given. Mayor Weh is not willing to go higher than \$28.00/hr. because of what our full-time officers make. Alderman Deien asked the Chief to pull together the number of hours worked by part time and full-time officers over the past 4 years for our next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Brown made a motion to enter Closed Session for 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried. The council entered closed session at 8:05 p.m.

The council re-entered the regular meeting at 10:40 p.m. Roll Call: Mohme (absent), Deien, Berry, Brown, Sampson, Rakers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder, Trenton Fest is this weekend. Mayor Weh thanked everyone for their time tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk