

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 11, 2024

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Andy Weh at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present was Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Officer Caren Cyvas, Chief Joellenbeck, Mike Conley, Barry Sieron, Treasurer Linda Reibold and Jessica McCranie

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Jessica McCranie addressed the council asking for a dog park in Trenton. She drives her dog to Mascoutah, O'Fallon and Highland to use their dog parks. Mascoutah's park is run and maintained by volunteers and Ms. McCranie is willing to help coordinate volunteers here. Mayor Weh agrees with the dog park idea the problem is the money required to put one in. He will work with Ms. McCranie on a committee for this.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Brown wanted to know if we could put something out to the public soliciting volunteers for the dog park. Chief Joellenbeck said that the committee could set up a 501(c)(3) so donations could be tax exempt. Treasurer Reibold said to check with our insurance carrier because the city could be liable for anything that happens at the dog park.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Director of Public Works Brockhahn gave a shout out to all who volunteered for the park clean up day. He said that the Drees family came out on Sunday and did a clean up of the Nut House Park. Thanks to them for a job well done.

Chief Joellenbeck said the DARE fish fry will be this Friday from 4-7 pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

Treasurer Linda Reibold gave her resignation to the mayor. She has accepted a full-time job and her last day with the city will be March 22, 2024

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, Deien and Mohme absent. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to Approve the Bills for February 2024, a motion to Approve Payrolls for February 2024 and a motion to Approve the Treasurer's report for January 2024.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Letter of Intent to Wesclin School District. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes Deien and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Ordinance 1839 Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Deien and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Clerk Buzzard discussed with Council that Becky Thoele, business owner at 14 S Main Street has applied for Tax Increment Finance assistance for a new roof on her building. Council decided to reimburse TIF eligible expenses at 60% with a one-time payout due to the fact that the TIF is coming to the end of its life. Clerk Buzzard will prepare an ordinance and agreement for approval at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Weh talked about the finance committee meeting held last week to go through the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2025. Clerk Buzzard updated the budget after the suggested changes and there are still three funds that need some attention. First is the sewer fund. That needs to be balanced. After some discussion it was decided to take the portion of the public works vehicle that was being paid for from sewer fund and move that to the equipment fund. The next fund that needs to be balanced is the police equipment fund. There was discussion about the police vehicle budgeted for this year and it was discovered that equipment to outfit that vehicle was entered into the budget in two different areas. Once that is cleaned up this fund will be balanced. The last fund that needs to be looked at is the park fund. There are a lot of projects included in this budget. Director of Public Works Brockhahn met recently with the Trenton Park Boosters' project committee, and they have indicated that they would be willing to contribute financially to a couple of fence projects. We don't know how much that will be. The deficit in the park fund will be covered by the surplus in the general fund. Clerk Buzzard will update the budget and we plan to hold the public hearing required for passage at the first meeting in April.

The owner of the property at 127 W Broadway has applied for Tax Increment Financing for assistance with upgrades to that property. Mayor Weh suggested the same 60% reimbursement and one year payback as we just discussed for another business owner earlier this evening. Concerns were expressed because this is a residence in the TIF district. Clerk Buzzard has verified that nothing in the TIF act prohibits the City from entering into a redevelopment agreement with this property owner. Questions were answered about how much the property owner pays into TIF. Council decided to fashion a redevelopment agreement similar to the one discussed earlier tonight. Clerk Buzzard will prepare that ordinance and agreement for approval at the next council meeting.

Mayor Weh brought up for discussion again a potential new business district in the downtown area. Our TIF consultant provided the city their cost estimate for guiding us through the creation of a new business district and that has been included in the budget. Some of the aldermen only want to create a business district if the TIF extension is not approved, some are against it no matter what, and some want to do it regardless of the TIF extension. Alderman Rakers is strongly against any tax and stated he knows of a business that will leave Trenton if any new tax is passed. Mayor Weh suggested revisiting this subject after we see what happens with the TIF extension.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Berry. All yes, Deien and Mohme absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk