

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 25, 2024

**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, March 25, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present was Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Officer Caren Cyvas, Chief Joellenbeck, Mike Conley, Barry Sieron, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Carl Durkee, and Andrew Wallenberg

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Carl Durkee thanked Alderman Brown for the detailed answers to questions about the upcoming water infrastructure improvement project. Mr. Durkee went on to ask that the city consider moving the water tower to the north end of the property and putting the residential development to the south end of the property. Mayor Weh said that the city will revisit this request but he is making no promises.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Weh wished everyone a happy and safe Easter weekend.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Brown informed the city that SLM, the company that the city purchases water from, will be raising their rates. Effective May 1, 2024 water rates will increase \$.40 per 1000 gallons, or just over 17%. Our code of ordinances already says that any rate increase from SLM is automatically passed on to our residents. The council will not need to take any action on this. Alderman Brown also stated that there is a printing press being stored at the public works building that is supposed to go to the library. Now the library does not have enough room for it and will not be taking it. Alderman Brown has reached out to Clinton County Historical Society and they do not have room for this. He has contacted a couple of additional museums but has not heard back from them.

Alderman Rakers was contacted by Mr. Jolley who has a recreational vehicle parked on the road at his home. Mr. Jolley is concerned about the ordinance on the agenda for passage tonight. He is a disabled veteran and needs help, although he didn't elaborate on what kind of help he needs. He told Alderman Rakers that he could possibly have the RV moved out of town by July. Mayor Weh commented that Mr. Jolley told him the same thing last year.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Director of Public Works Brockhahn informed the council that he sold \$45,000.00 in surplus items last week. At the finance committee meeting there was discussion about allowing Director Brockhahn to go ahead and purchase some small items such as weed eaters this year and not to put that into the budget. Copies of quotes were in the packet for tonight's meeting and Director Brockhahn is wanting to get the go ahead for making the purchase. It was granted. The grader for the skid steer has been ordered.

Chief Joellenbeck informed the council that the 4-way stop will be gridlock after the eclipse next month.

There will be another DEA drug take back on April 27, 2024.

Mayor Weh thanked all who worked at the DARE fish fry and gave a special thank you to Officer Mora for all her hard work.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Minutes of the March 11, 2024 Regular Council meeting. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Weh said that Superintendent Filyaw of Wesclin School District sent an email counter offer this afternoon to our latest offer to them. The school board is asking for 85% of Wesclin's share of the TIF annually. They are using the \$142,000.00 figure as 100% of the school's share of TIF but we still do not have any concrete answer as to how that figure has been calculated. The school will be asked to clarify this calculation again. The question was asked if we verify the numbers, will it still be feasible to go forward with the extension? This payment will severely limit what the city can do for our businesses. Some of the aldermen are in favor of going forward with the extension because of the time it would take to build up funds in a new TIF, and the fact that the base EAV would be reset and the school would gain tax dollars there. Mayor Weh said that Clerk Buzzard would get EAV numbers for the last 5 years for comparison.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1840 Approving Agreement Between City of Trenton and AKW Properties for Tax Increment Finance Proceeds. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, Mohme and Berry absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1841 Approving Agreement Between City of Trenton and It's A Miracle for Tax Increment Finance Proceeds. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Attorney Heiligenstein reviewed the changes that were incorporated into the ordinance regarding recreational vehicles. Some of the wording related to setbacks is already in our code and would be redundant. There was discussion on wording to clarify "stored" and discussion on parking. Attorney Heiligenstein said that because this item is on the agenda for action tonight, council could pass the ordinance with amendments, or take action at the next meeting when the language has been updated. Alderman Brown made a motion to Continue until April 8, 2024 Approval of Ordinance #1842 Amending Chapter 48. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme and Berry absent. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Resolution 20240325 Authorizing Publication of Official Zoning Map. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Brown made a Motion to Approve Resolution 20240325-2 Authorizing FY25 Motor Fuel Tax Program. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1843 Amending Ordinance #1837 Annexing Certain Property To The City of Trenton. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Mohme and Berry absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve the Appointment of Megan Donjon as Treasurer. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried. Mayor Weh is pleased that Megan is taking the position.

Everyone is fine with the budget as it is except for the DARE fund. Alderman Brown would like to see \$5,000.00 put into the budget so that Officer Mora can purchase her own fryers for the annual fish fry. She deserves to have the tools necessary to be successful. The fish fry took in \$5,900.00 this year, and since Officer Mora has taken over DARE she has raised the fund balance in that account almost \$14,000.00. Chief Joellenbeck said that the fryers he borrowed this year are bigger than the park boosters fryer and there were no issues this year. Officer Mora isn't doing Red Ribbon week, nor is she doing the DARE scholarship. Chief Joellenbeck went on to say that business donations of \$2,500.00 shouldn't be considered as part of the fundraiser. Wages to teach DARE and overtime to cover Officer Moras's shifts should be paid from DARE funds before fryers are purchased. When it was stated that Officer Mora teaches on her days off, Chief Joellenbeck said that he covers her shifts because he is salaried. Mayor Weh questioned what the DARE fund was established for. Chief Joellenbeck said the council can do whatever they want to, but the businesses won't be happy to see this go sideways. Chief doesn't have to participate in fundraisers and neither do the other officers that volunteer their time. He then questioned where the fryer would be stored. Alderman Brown said that DARE purchased an enclosed trailer. Why not use that? Chief Joellenbeck said that is full of car parts that have been removed from various police vehicles. Mayor Weh said that is poor use of funds. After much more discussion, Alderman Sampson asked what the intentions were long term for the DARE program. It was decided to add \$5,000.00 to the budget in the DARE fund.

Director of Public Works Brockhahn reviewed with council again the SCADA system that will be part of the water infrastructure upgrades. What needs to be determined is whether we will include this in the ILEPA loan or pay for this equipment and installation on our own. The benefits of both options were reviewed again, and the council decided to pay for this on our own.

Alderman Rakers made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1844 Granting Variance at 123 E Iowa Street. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Authorize City of Trenton to Continue Participation in Municipal Aggregation Program. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, Berry and Mohme absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

---

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk