

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 10, 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, June 10, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present was Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Chief Joellenbeck, Officer Steve Howe, Barry Sieren, Mark Litteken, Mr. & Mrs. Hollenkamp, Maryanne Wagoner and Mike Conley

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Weh called upon Ms. Wagoner. She is here to observe for a boy scout merit badge.

Mayor Weh called upon Mr. Sieren. He asked of the status of negotiations with Wesclin School District regarding the TIF extension. Mayor Weh said that the school rejected our last offer, and that the city will be proceeding with the creation of a new TIF district. Mr. Sieren then asked the status of the new gas station. Mayor Weh said that discussions are still taking place with the owner, and we are working to find a resolution.

Mayor Weh called upon Doug Hollenkamp. Mr. Hollenkamp applied for a special use, and he wanted to know if that had been voted on. Mayor Weh asked clerk Buzzard to explain. She stated that at the last council meeting there was a motion to postpone to a date certain the motion to approve the special use. There was no second to the motion, therefore that motion failed. Mayor Weh then called for a motion to approve the special use and no motion was made so the ordinance to approve the special use died. Mr. Hollenkamp wanted to know why it wasn't approved. No one answered. He stated several times that licenses are available therefore they should be issued. He then wanted to know what he needed to do to move this forward. Mayor Weh said he would need to reapply for a special use and go through the process again. Mr. Hollenkamp stated that the council was not relieved of their duty because they did not vote. He then went on to ask questions about TIF for his building.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Weh congratulated the Park Boosters on a great tournament this past weekend. All the money they make they put right back into the park, and we appreciate it. He commended Director of Public Works Brockhahn and his crew for their tireless work to prepare the park for this weekend and the new concession stand and bathrooms are open. Mayor Weh heard a lot of compliments on them. He thanked Chief Joellenbeck and his officers too. There were no reported incidents at the park.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Chief Joellenbeck reminded the public to renew their side-by-side licenses, there are quite a few being driven with expired licenses. He also wants side-by-side drivers to pay attention to where you can cross the highways.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to Approve Bills for the month of May 2024, a motion to Approve the Payrolls for the month of May 2024 and a motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2024.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1842 Amending Chapter 48 of the City of Trenton Code of Ordinances. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Brown made a motion to Award Bid for FY25 MFT to lowest responsible bidder and to authorize Mayor to sign all documents. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried.

Mark Litteken spoke to council. He sits on the Clinton County Zoning Board and the county has been contacted by a solar company that would like to install a solar farm on 113 acres just south of Trenton city limits. That parcel sits wholly within the City's growth corridor (mile and ½ radius of the city limits), and although the county has jurisdiction there they will take into consideration the city's position on this project. Mr. Litteken explained that the county had setback requirements, but HB4412 has stripped all of those rights, so if the county board has cause for denying the application, they might. They want to work with municipalities on situations like this. He talked of the few requirements that the county can still impose, one being a decommission clause and bond if this project is abandoned. It is not uncommon for these solar companies to get bought out or go out of business. Mr. Litteken is asking for the City to pass an ordinance prohibiting solar farms in our growth corridor. An alderman questioned the solar farm that exists just south of this parcel. That is outside of the city's growth corridor. There was more discussion of the mile and ½ radius and what the city would like to see develop within that corridor. Mr. Litteken informed the council that congress has just approved funding for micro nuclear energy, and he feels that it won't be long and solar will be phased out.

Mayor Weh asked Mr. Litteken for an update on the Ameren SURSEE Line. Mr. Litteken said that bids are being taken for the installation of the line even though the project hasn't been approved yet. Briefings are being reviewed by the judge. The ICC is very one-sided toward Ameren. It is expected to hear something in the July – October timeframe. The last time Ameren tried to put a line through the ICC approved it and it was struck down by the appellate court. Mr. Litteken said that it would be beneficial for the city to write another letter in opposition if this went to the appellate court.

Alderman Rakers made a motion to Accept Offer from Nick Raetz for the purchase of property at 203 E Broadway in the amount of \$22,000.00. Second Alderman Brown. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Brown made a motion to enter closed session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective Bargaining. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried. Council entered closed session at 7:54 p.m.

The council re-entered the regular session at 9:14 p.m. Roll call: Berry, Deien, Sampson (absent), Brown, Rakers, Mohme (absent).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, Mohme and Sampson absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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Karen Buzzard, City Clerk