

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 24, 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 24, 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 Grant Heier, Barry Sieren, Treasurer Megan Donjon, Kelly Ross of the Breese Journal, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, many residents of Wildwood Estates and Mike Conley

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh said this will be the last meeting before the Independence Day holiday. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director of Public Works Brockhahn said that this year's Motor Fuel Tax program has been sent to Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for approval. Once approved we can move forward with scheduling dates. Alderman Brown asked for another list of the roads to be oiled this year. Director Brockhahn informed council that Christ Bros. will be sending a list of dates available for the Main Street resurfacing project. This will be worked around the Trenton Fest parade.

CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Heiligenstein wanted to explain to Council their options related to the ordinance to grant a variance at 423 Wedgewood Lane on the agenda. Tonight, council received the written recommendation from the Plan Commission. Here are the choices that council can make; 1) do nothing. If the council decides to do nothing, then 21 days from the plan commissions written recommendation that decision will stand. 2) make a motion for judicial review. The council can refer this matter back to committee or they can conduct their own hearing. They would need to give notice to everyone that spoke at the plan commission hearing to allow them to speak again. 3) vote tonight 4) vote to postpone until a date certain the vote. Mayor Weh called on residents in attendance. They asked the council to deny the variance or to delay taking action on the variance until after the drainage issues in the neighborhood have been fixed. Alderman Brown agreed that there are enough drainage problems in that area already and he is in favor of supporting the plan commissions decision to deny the variance. The rest of the council members agreed. Alderman Rakers asked if Ms. Courtney changed her plan would she be able to bring it back for review. Yes, and if she modified the plan to the point where she did not exceed the 30% lot coverage she would not need a variance at all. No motion for judicial review was made. Council took no action on this item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Minutes of the June 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, Mohme and Berry absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Weh asked if everyone had received an email today from the landowner of the property where the propped solar farm may be located. All had. The email corrected some misinformation that had been printed in last week's edition of the Trenton Sun, which was reporting on a conversation held at the previous council meeting. Alderman Brown would like to know which 30 acres will be converted? There was general discussion about the City's growth corridor and what our vision is for certain areas within that corridor. Mayor Weh stated that Trenton is land locked and expansion will be difficult. We need to control what develops in the 1 ½ mile radius. Several aldermen agreed that if a resolution was passed that we put restrictions on solar in the areas along Route 50 and Route 160.

Mayor Weh and clerk Buzzard spoke with the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) consultant recently. He was brought up to speed with the breakdown of negotiations with Wesclin School. The city's final offer of \$120,000 annually was rejected by the school and their counteroffer of that payment with EAV increases was rejected by the city. Our consultant estimated that the school's request would be roughly 25% of the TIF receipts which Mayor Weh feels is too high. Mayor Weh has discussed this with Representative Charlie Meier who is willing to negotiate with the school on our behalf. Everyone agreed that this would not result in any different outcome and wish to proceed with the creation of a new TIF district.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Weh had a resident complain about solicitors coming to her door when she has a no solicitor sign above her doorbell. She would like to have solicitation prohibited in Trenton. Mayor Weh has talked with Chief Joellenbeck about how to strengthen our code. We do have signs posted at the entrance to the city but they are faded and need to be replaced. Current solicitation permit fees are \$50.00 per person per day or \$150.00 per person per fiscal year. One suggestion would be to limit solicitation to only one week and not allow for the fiscal year. If someone is caught soliciting without a permit they are fined \$75.00. The mayor suggested solicitors be issued a badge that must be worn when going door to door. That is already in our code. This will be discussed further when Chief Joellenbeck is present.

CLOSED SESSION

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.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk