

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 28, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Andy Weh at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Treasurer Megan Donjon, and Mike Bridges.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Weh called on Mr. Bridges to speak. Mr. Bridges apologized for not being present at the last council meeting when his special use was voted on. He asked the council to do a reconsideration vote and asked the mayor what that process was. Mayor Weh explained it to the council. Mr. Bridges explained parking options for his project. He went on to say this building has been a hardship on him since he purchased it in 2009. The building is still on the market, but he can't sell it because it is not zoned commercial. He asked the council for suggestions as to what he can do there. Alderman Deien and Brown said that a duplex is allowed by special use only. Attorney Heiligenstein suggested if the council does a reconsideration vote tonight and it passes, that the vote on the special use be postponed to the next meeting to give those that were in attendance at the last meeting a chance to be present for the vote. Mayor Weh stated that Mr. Bridges is in a pickle. Aside from spot zoning, which is something that is not really an option, a vote to reconsider is the only option. There was much more discussion about this request not meeting the requirements in our code and that the Plan Commission should not have made a recommendation for anything more than a duplex. Mr. Bridges brought up two locations in Trenton that have been spot zoned. Mayor Weh said if nothing is done then this property will continue to deteriorate, and no one wants that. Attorney Heiligenstein said that the city could amend the code to allow for multifamily in the SR-2 zoning area if that is what they want to do. There was discussion about changing the zoning to commercial, but Attorney Heiligenstein said that it would only be possible if there was commercial zoning adjacent to this property, which there is not. Alderman Rakers stated he hoped that we could come to some resolution for this building. He would be in favor of storage units, but that too, is not allowed per our code. Alderman Deien made a motion to reconsider the vote on Ordinance # A Special Use at 202 S Main and postpone until November 25, 2024 the vote on the special use. Second Alderman Sampson. Roll Call: Sampson, yes, Rakers, no, Deien, yes, Sims, no, Berry, absent, Brown, no. Motion failed. The special use application is dead.

Mr. Boien entered the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Mayor Weh called upon Mr. Boien. He expressed his displeasure with his road and the dust created after the road was oil and chipped. He is also upset with the speeding on his street. He would like to see a speed hump installed. Mayor Weh took all of Mr. Boien's comments into consideration.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Trick or Treat will be on Halloween night from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The City has entered into a contract with Jerry Middeke to fix the drainage problems in the Wildwood subdivision. There will be a Town Hall style meeting with the affected homeowners on November 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. here at City Hall.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Deien has been approached by someone that would like to use their house for short term rental purposes. We currently do not have anything in our code that defines this or allows for it. Alderman Deien would like to discuss further and set some parameters, such as minimum 3-month rental. Mayor Weh asked for this to be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Rakers, All yes, Berry absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Weh wanted to discuss again with the council the grocery tax that is set to expire. For 2023 the City of Trenton collected about \$80,000.00 in revenue from this tax. When you look at our budget, it is very tight with a projected surplus of maybe \$100,000.00. Without a new revenue stream to replace this tax we will be at break even. Mayor Weh believes we need to keep this tax. Alderman Brown guesses that we may be the only municipality in the area that will not be putting this tax back on their books. This is a tax that is not paid by just our residents. Anyone that shops in Trenton will pay this. He has been a part of the budget process for the last several years and understands how tight the budget really is. Alderman Sampson feels that there is a way to cut this from our budget. He will get with Karen Buzzard to review the budget. Mayor Weh asked everyone to look at the budget and we will discuss this again at the next meeting.

The next item for discussion is our refuse contract which will expire at the end of this fiscal year. Mayor Weh said that he feels it is good practice to bid this out again. It has been 10 years since we have bid this. He asked for feedback on what works and what doesn't so we can build that into the specs. Automation was desired, with recycling picked up every other week. The 4 bulk pick ups per year were liked. Mayor Weh said that some smaller companies are soliciting our business, and they may not be fully automated. One of the positives to that would be less wear and tear on the roads. There was also discussion about not allowing 3rd party outsourcing. One point made was that no one wanted any bins smaller than what we already have for recycling. Mayor Weh asked for any aldermen to put their requests in writing to him. He will be meeting with Karen Buzzard, and Andy Brockhahn next week to put the specs together.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Ordinance #1859 Declaring Surplus Property. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, Berry absent. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drive safely on Halloween. The police will have three cars on patrol that night. Mayor Weh asked Chief Joellenbeck to gather information on speed humps.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Rakers made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, Berry absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.