

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 12, 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 Tuesday, November 12, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Berry, Brown, Deien, Rakers, Sampson, Sims All present

Also present was Andy Brockhahn Public Works Director, Chief Chris Joellenbeck, and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun,

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh saluted our veterans and thanked them for their service.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director of Public Works Brockhahn announced that there will be a town hall style meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall for certain residents of the Wildwood subdivision. This meeting will review the storm drainage project that will take place out there.

As Council has been made aware, the City was not funded by the ILEPA this year for the water infrastructure improvement project. Our engineer informed us of “bypass” funds that become available through the ILEPA and asked if the city would be interested in pulling out a portion of the whole project and applying for these bypass funds. We decided to ask for funding to do the painting of the existing water tower. We found out late last week that we will be funded for this project and that we also qualify for 71% principal loan forgiveness. The water tower project is estimated to cost just over \$671,000. With the loan forgiveness, just over \$476,000.00 will be forgiven. We plan to put this project out for bid in December and award bids in January so the project will be completed this summer. The water tower will need to be taken off-line for a period of time, but the city will be fine with taking water from the reservoir and the main service line.

The budget this year included money for sewer lining. Director Brockhahn would like to target lines that run under some of our main streets. His crew started to clean one of those lines today and found an 8 inch line almost completely closed because of buildup. He may need to rent a cutter to break through that.

There had been a problem with the headworks at the wastewater treatment plant. Director Brockhahn feels they finally found the problem and have fixed it. There have been no additional problems there.

Chief Joellenbeck reported that the tasers are in. When he gets the invoice, he will submit it to ILEAS for grant reimbursement.

His department has been on speed detail and have written two tickets. Chief Joellenbeck would like to purchase two portable speed limit signs. He prefers the solar powered ones. One quote from Radar Design lists each sign for \$3848.00 with an additional \$275 for software. He is waiting for another quote which he believes will be cheaper. He would like to place them on the state highways so a permit from IDOT may be required.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to approve minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to approve bills for the month of October 2024, a motion to approve payrolls for the month of October 2024, and a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Weh stated that he gave council bad information regarding the grocery tax. That tax will cease at the end of 2025, not 2024. He asked Clerk Buzzard to review the details again. This is a 1% tax on groceries that the governor has repealed as of December 31, 2025. The governor has also given the ability to all municipalities to continue that tax without a referendum. That is the significant aspect of this legislation. If the City of Trenton wishes to continue to collect that tax, we have until the fall of 2025 to pass an ordinance and file that with the Department of Revenue. There are several local municipalities that have already or will soon be passing ordinances to retain that tax. In 2023 the City of Trenton collected approximately \$80,000.00 from that 1% tax. Several of our aldermen feel that we can cut that from our budget. Others feel that our budget is so very tight already. It was decided to revisit this topic after we set the budget for next year.

Alderman Deien has been approached by a resident that would like to rent their house to visiting nurses while they are away. Currently our code does not address this, therefore it is not prohibited. Clerk Buzzard suggested incorporating into the code definitions for short-term rental, vacation rental, Air BNB, etc. There was much discussion on how to regulate this. It was determined that there is currently not issue with this so don't do anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Weh reminded everyone that there is a finance committee meeting tonight immediately following the council meeting to discuss in detail the tax levy. No numbers have been calculated yet so we don't yet know if a Truth in Taxation hearing will be necessary. There was discussion on how the levy is calculated and which line items are unrestricted. Clerk Buzzard was asked to prepare several options for council to consider.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Brown made a motion to enter closed session for 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective Bargaining and 5 ILSC 120/2(c)(11) Probable or Pending Litigation. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, motion carried. The Council entered closed session at 6:56 p.m.

The council re-entered the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Roll call: Rakers, Sampson, Sims, Berry, Brown, Deien. All present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Brockhahn forgot to inform council that the lift station panel at Deien Chevrolet has been installed.

Director Brockhahn had a conversation with Doug Ratermann with HMG Engineering tonight and was told that the only way the city would be approved for grant funding on our downtown project is if we would change the parking on Broadway from diagonal to parallel. Everyone

agreed that is not an option. We are trying to maximize parking downtown and this would reduce significantly the number of spaces available.

Alderman Rakers reported potholes in the alley behind 7-West. That will be looked at.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk