

**City of Trenton**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
February 10th, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Calvin Woodrey called the February 10<sup>th</sup> special Council meeting to order at 5:35pm.

There was some technical difficulties in the streaming of Facebook live. The meeting was streamed live as soon as it was possible.

**PRAYER**

Councilwoman Harris led us in prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Clerk Daley took roll call; all members of Council were present except for Mayor Woodrey. A motion to excuse Mayor Woodrey was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. To discuss the Fire Department Staffing Analysis.  
Fire Chief Darrel Yater began by telling the history of The Trenton Fire Department, explaining the many stages of staffing the department has undergone over the years. Stating the department started as a volunteer Fire department working side by side with the Trenton Rescue Squad which was a totally separate business in its self. In 2003 we did a very similar study and slowly over the years were able to make the changes from the 2003 study. Dr. Randall Hannifin and associates provided the current analysis. He explained that 20 years ago he was an apprentice during that study and was honored to lead this study. He explained it is wonderful to see that the Department was able to do many things from the last study but to see the growth in the City and where we are now, improvements are still needed. The Department is currently Part-time and he feels with the number of call, residents, and businesses going in that it supports the need of more. The ideal assessment would be having 4 full time employees and two part-time around the clock. He explained the new fire house and amount of equipment would support that staffing amount. He broke down multiple different staffing scenarios for Council breaking it down to cost to the city to support this staffing. Currently we are budgeting right around \$500,000.00 for payroll for the part-time department over one fiscal year. The increase to maintaining the full time staffing would increase each year beginning somewhere around 1.9 million dollars in payroll the first year to nearly 9 million somewhere around the tenth year. Clearly a levy would need to be passed to even try to support these numbers. Some of Council asked about the Safer Grant, which could help cover payroll for a few years but not near the amounts discussed. The Dr. presented a power point

presentation explaining the multiple situations that led to the analysis presented to Council.

Council continued to ask questions on such topics such as predictive budgeting for increased hiring and how this could be explained clearly to the resident's for them to understand the need for the actual increase in staffing and the increase on a budget. Council asked CM Nichols if they decided to begin moving forward with this when would we want to put a levy on the ballot. CM Nichols stated that the sooner the better in his opinion, as he has heard rumor the school is thinking of also putting a levy on. Council had concerns of how the residents of the City will feel about another levy, yet felt it to be very important that our City has the coverage we need. Council asked that they be presented with the millage it would take to even come close to cover such an expense. They all agreed this is a topic that will need more attention than just this evening and will come back to it during regular Council meetings.

Fire Chief Yater thanked Council for coming and listening to the needs of the department. He asked that Council make a list of any items that they wished to take a closer look at. Mr. Hannifin thanked Council for their time and stated it was great to see that they cared and were interested in trying to create a safer environment for everyone.

## **REPORTS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE OF COUNCIL**

Councilman Agee thanked everyone, he stated it was a lot to take in. He asked for a silent prayer for his daughter as she will be having her third ear surgery in the morning.

Councilman Perry thanked everyone for coming and for the information.

Councilwoman Montgomery thanked the Dr. for the presentation. It truly was a lot to take in but she and Council will consider all that has been stated.

Councilwoman Montgomery also thanked the Dr. for his presentation. She agreed feeling that it is a lot of information and a lot of numbers but very important information to have.

Councilwoman Harris stated she agreed it was a lot of valuable information, without the presentation she would not have known nor understood what it would take to get to where we need to be. She understands the City cannot financially handle the amounts presented but still felt it is so important to have the information as this has been a concern for Council for a while as emergency services are so crucial to our City. She finished by thanking everyone for coming.

Vice Mayor Perry said he would like to duplicate the thoughts of the other Council members. He thanked the Fire Department Officers that attended this evening and showing their support. He finished by thanking Public works for a job well done this last week during the snow storm. Trenton's streets were by far the best cleared in the areas he had traveled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Harris, followed by a second by Councilman Agee. Roll call was taken; 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The special meeting adjourned at 7:47pm