

City of Trenton
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 7th, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodrey called the March 7th Council meeting to order at 6:00pm.

PRAYER

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

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken; all members of Council and necessary members of administration were present.

NEW BUSINESS

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Discussion – City Attorney Nick Ziepfel began the discussion by giving some facts regarding the final rule of the ARPA funds that the City will receive. He explained the City will receive 1.3 million dollars in these funds that can be used for multiple purposes. To explain it as clearly as possible he stated there are 4 approved purposes that the funds can be appropriated for. One being Capital improvement and local business relief. Two, Response for Premium pay for employees directly affected by Covid-19. Three, Governmental services, to replace up to 10,000,000 dollars of lost revenue. Finally four, for the purpose improvements of water, storm water, sewer, broadband, and parks. He explained that the ruling on the \$10,000,000 lost revenue would allow us to allocate almost any purchase or project under purpose three. All funds must be allocated by the end of 2024, and all purchases and projects must be paid for by 2026. The rules are not the same for the ARPA funds as were the Cares funds, as Federal funding is not the same as state funding, but with this new ruling, the purpose for purchase will be more easily obtainable.

City Manager Marcos Nichols explained that he asked the department heads what capital items or projects they wished to present to Council. Councilman Agee asked if all purchases would come to Council for approval. CA Ziepfel stated that federal procurement laws will apply. CM Nichols explained that not all individual items will come to Council, the \$35,000 ceiling for the CM Nichols to approve would still be in place, yet that is why he is coming to Council with the requests from each department in the beginning to see where Council wanted the money to be appropriated. He explained there are a lot of items that have been requested and the money will not cover them all but it is a start. He continued by having the department heads come up and give their requests and the purpose for each request. These requests did not include dollar amounts as we are only at the stage of seeing what Council wishes to learn more about.

Fire Chief Yater approached Council stating he would like to see some of the money allocated to purchase a second new squad. The squad that was purchased last year out of budgeted funds would not be in for a while yet, and if we ordered another unit it could be over two years before it is ready for delivery. Council asked the necessity of purchasing another new squad. The Chief explained that two of the three squads were very out of date and need to be replaced. The third is a 2013 and has already outlived its life expectancy but they would still keep it in the rotation to elongate the life of the squads, as the squad is the most used and abused piece of equipment in the department.

Service Director Leichman stated that as Council was aware, we have multiple streets that need paved, sidewalks that need work, storm drains, catch basins, and dry wells that are long overdue for repair and or to be rebuilt. Phase 2 sewer extension in the Industrial park, remote firefly water meters that can be placed on high risk properties and multiple unit homes, and homes with dangerous access to meters. This allows the water department to shut off water remotely from the City building. Lastly considering getting Fiopitics to the water tower on ginger ridge.

Police Chief Carr stated the Police department was in need of personal protection gear, protective sound proof glass for in between the dispatch area and the police lobby, and the remodeling of the basement by digitalizing the required records that are stored in the basement and creating a small armory area including a new gun safe, and an area for detectives to do the necessary work for proper investigations including a fuming chamber and a drying chamber.

Vice Mayor Perry and Mayor Woodrey spoke in regards of the parks. They stated that an important project that needs to be considered is Home Ave Park. The road driving through the center of the park has always been a safety issue, they would like admin to keep in mind that park needs to be thought about, as well as thoughts of a splash pad and or dog park area that our community has expressed a large interest in bringing these amenities to our community. CM Nichols stated those are all items in that have been found in the workings of the comprehensive plan and have been included in the master parks plan.

Questions and discussions were had regarding the multiple items presented to Council. Council stated the protective sound proof glass was needed regardless of whether or not ARPA funds were used. CM Nichols stated that he would follow up with more information on the items that were discussed.

2. Open Space Requirement Ordinance Discussion. City Attorney Nick Ziepfel presented Council with a rough draft of the revised ordinance regarding the required open space for new developments. Council made it clear that they were not trying to scare away developers, yet our City desperately needs these green spaces in our new developments. Councilwoman Harris spoke of the importance of this as The City as it stands has limited areas to develop left within the City limits. There are a multitude of things that need to be considered when setting the terms to the open space. What consists of green space, how much should be dedicated to such open spaces, how are the fees in lieu of the open space determined. Whether the City would own these green spaces or would allow HOA's to control the space. Whether these spaces would then be only open to that neighborhood instead of being available to the whole

community. Would PUD's be better for our City? After a lot of conversation it was determined that Council determined with this new open space ordinance requiring 12% of open space would give us multiple tools in the box to work with developers. We need to keep our heads to the future and keep in mind that the Comprehensive plan would be coming out and honestly our Zoning needs to be rewritten. Keeping those things in mind, they determined they prefer to have the City control the space but everything would come to Council and need to be approved by Planning Commission and Council in the planning stages of the developments.

REPORTS

None.

AUDIENCE OF COUNCIL

None.

Councilman Agee stated it was National be heard day.
Mayor Woodrey thanked those that attended the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official and to confer with legal counsel by Vice Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Council went into executive session at 8:32pm.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilman Agee. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Council came out of executive session at 10:01pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the special Council meeting was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilman Agee. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. The Special Council meeting was adjourned at 10:01pm