

City of Trenton
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16th, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodrey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

PRAYER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Clerk Laura Daley took roll call; all members of Council were present.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Tax Commissioner, Linsey Hobbs presentation- presentation bullets attached.
She explained that starting two years ago she had sent out nearly 8,000 non-file letters, we are currently down to nearly 2,700 letters that still are being sent trying to alert people of their need to file. This is an on-going process and the fact is anyone living or working within the City has to file taxes, failure to do so, creates an estimated system and this will be filed in the place of your actual taxes, and this will be turned into the Ohio Attorney general's office. The outcome is always much better if each individual files their actual taxes with the City. For instructions on exactly what is needed to do so, please see the attachment to these minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the March 2nd, 2023 Council Work Session.
2. Minutes of the March 2nd, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 2nd Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting by Vice Mayor Perry followed by a second by Councilwoman Montgomery. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. ARPA Running Totals.
Finance Director Matthew Mesisklis reviewed the running previously known as ARPA fund totals, which were used as lost revenue describing the expenditures thus far.

AUDIENCE OF PUBLIC

1. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION TO APPOINT DIANE HERBEL TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM STARTING IN 2023 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025.

A motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second to by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

2. MOTION TO APPOINT JOSH LEASURE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION REPLACING GLENN REID AND FULFILLING SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.

A motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second to by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

LEGISLATION

A motion to read items 1- 4 under legislation by title only was made by Vice Mayor Perry and seconded by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 6 ayes, 1 nay, 0 absent. City attorney Nick Ziefel read each item under legislation by title only.

1. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATIER; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **(Second Reading)**

A motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **(First Reading, Suspend Rules)**

A motion to suspend the two readings and vote on this resolution this evening was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call was taken; 6 ayes, 1 nay, 0 absent. Vice Mayor Perry made a motion to authorize, followed by a second by Councilman Perry. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MATCHING FUNDS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **(First Reading, Suspend Rules)**

A motion to suspend the two readings and vote on this resolution this evening was made by Vice Mayor Perry, followed by a second by Councilwoman Montgomery. Roll call was taken; 5 ayes, 2 nays, 0 absent. Vice Mayor Perry made a motion to authorize, followed by a second by Councilman Perry. Roll call was taken; 6 ayes, 1 nay, 0 absent.

4. AN ORDINANCE TO RE-ZONE PARCEL NUMBER R8000-006-000-150, R8000-006-000-149 AND R8000-006-000-215 LOCATED ON OR NEAR THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF NORTH MIAMI STREET AND NORTH STREET IN THE CITY OF TRENTON, OHIO. **(First Reading, Refer to Planning Commission, Request for Public Hearing)**

The ordinance was read by title only. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perry to refer this Ordinance to the planning commission, followed by a second from Councilman Perry. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Mayor Woodrey then stated that this item would be set for a public hearing on April 20th, 2023 at the regular Council meeting.

REPORTS

City Attorney Nick Ziepfel had no reports.

Finance Director Matthew Mesisklis had no reports.

Council Clerk Laura Daley had no reports.

City Manager Marcos Nichols stated as a public announcement that as the weather changes and our resident's start visiting the community park, he wanted to announce that free wi-fi is available at the park now.

AUDIENCE OF COUNCIL

Councilwoman Harris welcomed Heather to our Code enforcement department, she then thanked Linsey for the report, she stated that she goes much further that she needs to in order to try to help the taxpayer. We have talked about this during Council meetings over and over again, the tax commissioner has went above and beyond to reach out to the public. Councilwoman Harris stated that she is shocked that the people are acting shocked that those that have not paid filed and or paid their taxes are being searched out. She apologized to Linsey for the amount of rudeness she is having to deal with.

Councilwoman Combs stated Ditto to Councilwoman Harris's comments. She thanked Linsey for her hard work and apologized for people treating her so poorly.

Councilman Perry thanked Mr. Leasure for stepping up and volunteering his time to serve on the Planning Commission, thanked Linsey for her hard work and her presentation and then welcomed Heather to the City. He then reminded everyone that we will be hosting a meet and greet with some of our County, State, and even a federal politicians from 8am – 10am at City hall tomorrow morning.

Councilman Agee stated please come to the meet and greet and meet the people, we the people elect. He stated it was exciting to see that they were coming here to our City hall for the event. He then asked CM Nichols how long the internet has been at the park. CM Nichols responded that we were able to extend the fiber to the park after receiving the ARPA funds and freeing up some of our revenues. This project was completed this winter. Councilman Agee then thanked Linsey, he stated that he was disappointed to hear that only 40% of our residents have been filing

and paying their taxes regularly, and that the other 60% are complaining and being rude because they are being sought out to do their part. We hear people's complaints about the City so as a community do your part and pay your taxes so we can keep moving forward as a City. He then questioned CM Nichols regarding the notices that went out regarding replacement water meters. Some residents stated that they received a final notice as their first notice including a threat to shut off their water if they did not comply. It was explained that several notices have gone out over the last two years, unfortunately these lists are auto-generated and it seems that a grouping of addresses had been left off the previous notice lists and those resident's may have received a final notice as their first notice. The City and the public works department apologizes for this, we do not intend to shut off peoples service we just need to get those meters updated so that we can get accurate water usage readings. Councilman Agee requested that this be looked into so mistakes like this do not happen again.

Councilwoman Montgomery stated that tonight's meeting has had some pleasant and then some not so pleasant moments but she stated to the public Council is here to help.

Vice Mayor Perry welcomes Heather, Josh and Diane. Trenton is a great place with great people. He said instead of going over all the events, he would just review a few. He stated coming up on April 22nd, Earth day there will be a small event at Founders park from 12-2pm where we will be giving away free trees saplings and seeds and some different types information will be available to the public. He then stated for everyone to save the date of June 3rd for the spring fest at Community park, he states this festival is for the kids as Fall fest is more adult oriented. Finally he wanted to comment on the Income taxes and the reaction of the community that they are required to file and pay their income taxes, stating that our Income tax commissioner has to follow the law, she has to do her job and the taxes must be filed and paid as this City cannot run on a deficit and that is the purpose taxes in the first place. Finally, he congratulated the H.S. Choraliers for winning the Championship and then he stated that there was a comment online about the middle school show choir having a show this weekend, he announced the details of that.

Mayor Woodrey welcomed Heather to Code enforcement, and then thanked Linsey and Kayla for their hard work, he explained his own family came to him stating they received letters and asked him for help, he explained the only help they needed was to come in to the City building and talk with the Tax department. He shared his frustration with the public's reaction trying to say this is intimidation when in reality it is the law to file and pay taxes, and if those that needed help with the situation would quit hiding behind their keyboard and just reach out to the tax department most issues would be resolved quickly and easily.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Perry and seconded by Councilman Agee. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. The regular Council meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.