

**City of Trenton**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

City of Trenton  
11 E State St | Trenton OH 45067  
513.988.6304 | www.trentonoh.gov

Calvin Woodrey  
**Mayor**

Ryan Perry      Jennifer Harris      Jennie Combs      Dale Perry      Cody Agee      Sharon Montgomery  
**Vice Mayor      Council Member      Council Member      Council Member      Council Member      Council Member**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRAYER**

1. Deacon Tammy Eady.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Woodrey, Perry, Agee, Montgomery, Harris, Combs, Perry (7)  
Absent: (0)

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Fire Chief – Darrell Yater.
  - a. Chief Yater provided a presentation to retiring Captain Randy Combs of the Trenton Fire Department. He noted that Captain Combs has been with the City of Trenton for 29 years. He started as a volunteer fireman, he became a fire investigator, and was promoted to Captain over time. Captain Combs was presented with his helmet and badge. He was also presented with a plaque on behalf of the Trenton Firefighters Association. Councilwoman Combs mentioned that they have been married for 33 years and for 29 years of those – he had been a firefighter and that there’s a lot of fond memories and heartaches that come with it and that he will become a grandfather this year!

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Work Session.
2. Minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion –To approve the minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Work Session and Regular Council meeting.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st \_\_\_\_\_ Vice Mayor Perry      2nd \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Montgomery

YAYS: Woodrey, Perry, Agee, Montgomery, Harris, Combs, Perry (7)  
NAYS: (0)  
ABSTAIN: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. None.

**AUDIENCE OF PUBLIC**

1. Fire Chief Darrell Yater – He spoke about the 2 agenda items that pertain to putting a Fire Levy on the ballot this November and that staff’s recommendation is Plan B (4.25 Mill Levy) which provides for Full-Time positions, allowing for supervision on shifts and continuity for staffing. No matter the result, the Department will continue to provide the best level of care possible at the funding level provided.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH TRI-STATE PUBLIC SAFETY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLATION OF THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO OUTFIT THREE (3) POLICE VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$57,000.00) FOR USE BY THE CITY OF TRENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO.

**Motion - That the motion be adopted.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Vice Mayor Perry 2nd Mr. Perry

YAYS: Woodrey, Perry, Agee, Montgomery, Harris, Combs, Perry (7)

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

**LEGISLATION**

**Motion - Table Items 1 and 2 under legislation.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Vice-Mayor Perry 2nd Mr. Perry

YAYS: Woodrey, Perry, Agee, Montgomery, Harris, Combs, Perry (7)

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1044.01 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (**Second Reading**)
2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1044.03 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (**Second Reading**)

**Motion - That the items 3, 4, and 5 under legislation be read by title only.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Vice-Mayor Perry 2nd Mr. Perry

YAYS: Woodrey, Perry, Montgomery, Combs, Perry (5)

NAYS: Agee, Harris (2)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

3. A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (**Second Reading**)
4. A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (**Second Reading**)

Councilmember Agee asked for clarification which resolution is which. City Attorney Nick Ziepfel noted that Item 3 on the agenda is the 2.0 Mill Levy and Item 4 is the 4.25 Mill Levy. Vice Mayor Perry noted that he has been struggling with which one to take to the voters, that he decided the 2.0 Mill Levy should be taken to the voters to decide if they are interested in it. Mr. Perry noted that he has been struggling with a decision to take a levy to the voters due to utility bills going up, the property taxes going up 36% and that the General Fund should support Fire staffing. Ms. Harris noted that it wasn't an "if" but rather "how much" and due to the increase in property taxes its hard to consider a higher "ask" from a financial perspective but rather considering something smaller and taking time over the next few years to reassess and consider options once the property tax increase has been in place for some time. Mr. Agee noted that this topic has been talked about for a while (in council meetings, retreats, with studies) and as Councilmembers the focus should be on whether the issues discussed and voted on are good for the community as a whole – and that the residents should have a part in this. Mr. Agee also noted with the property tax increase, there was a lack of information initially – however that has begun to change so they will have further information so one of the two of these levies should go to the voters to decide. Ms. Montgomery noted this topic has been a struggle for her as well – she has seen in her professional career how senior citizens struggle on fixed incomes and how the economy impacts their lives and noted that a decision will be made tonight that something should be on the ballot. Ms. Harris noted that money is finite and that monies spent on one thing are then not being spent on something else. Ms. Combs noted that in a perfect world, we want the very best, and the very best comes at a high cost and you have to go forward with something that has the best chance amongst voters. City Attorney Ziepfel noted that the levies specify that the monies can only be spent on personnel and nothing else. Mayor Woodrey mentioned that he has struggled and still struggles with this topic and that he will be in the same position as quite a few of our residents as he enters retirement.

**Motion - That Resolution (Item 3 on the agenda) be adopted.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Vice Mayor Perry 2nd Ms. Harris

YAYS: Perry, Agee, Harris, Combs (4)  
NAYS: Woodrey, Montgomery, Perry (3)  
ABSTAIN: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

City Attorney Nick Ziepfel noted that Item 4 does not need any action.

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5. AN ORDINANCE (FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS) AMENDING 2023 FINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 38-2022 TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (**First Reading**)

**REPORTS**

1. Finance Director Mesisklis invited Councilmembers to attend Departmental Budget meetings.

**AUDIENCE OF COUNCIL**

- Ms. Harris – Congratulated Captain Combs and noted that she is glad something will be going to the ballot this fall regarding Fire services.
- Ms. Combs – Expressed thanks to her family for being in attendance and the fire family as well for being there.
- Mr. Perry – Expressed thanks to Captain Combs for his service and time to the City of Trenton.
- Mr. Agee – Congratulated Captain Combs and expressed thanks to Jenni for being that significant other and the family members and loved ones of Captain Combs. The ones that run towards that danger should be respected for the courage it takes to not run away from danger but towards it. He noted that next Tuesday (August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Election, noted it is past the deadline to register to vote was July 10, 2023; Early in-person voting began July 11, 2023; Absentee Voting by mail also began July 11, 2023; Military and Overseas Absentee Voting begins June 23, 2023; and Election Day is August 8, 2023. Polls open at 6:30 AM and close at 7:30 PM. He also noted that he is happy to hear that something regarding the Fire levy came to some decision and now the residents can provide their opinion on the level of fire service that we provide.
- Ms. Montgomery – Congratulated Captain Combs and noted that she has the privilege of knowing his parents and his wife and everyone is proud of him. She also noted that August 8<sup>th</sup> is an important day, and to research the issue.
- Vice-Mayor Perry – Congratulated Captain Combs on his retirement and expressed thanks for his dedication to the City of Trenton. Expressed thanks to Rodney Creech and Thomas Hall for answering their phones. Reminder of Movies in the Park (8/12 – The Secret Life of Pets 2; 9/9 – High School musical). September 23 will be Fall Fest featuring Southerland.
- Mayor Woodrey – Expressed thanks to Captain Combs and noted that there will be a huge hole for the Fire Department to fill – and wished him a happy retirement. Also expressed thanks to Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, and the Library for the Touch-a-Truck event as well as to Midpointe Library for the concert they sponsored.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion - That the meeting be adjourned.**

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Vice Mayor Perry 2nd Mr. Agee Time: 8:22PM

YAYS: Woodrey, Agee, Perry, Montgomery, Harris, Combs, Perry (7)

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)