

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009
5:30 P.M.
TRENTON CITY HALL

- A. Call Meeting To Order & Welcome
- B. Invocation / Alderman Abbott
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Approve Minutes of August 11th Meeting
- E. Recorder's Report
- F. Citizens' Input – any citizen will be given up to 3 minutes to address the Mayor on any issue
- G. Old Business
 - 1. Doxicom Presentation
- H. New Business
- I. Reports from Department Heads
 - 1. Terry Bailey / Street & Sanitation Department
 - 2. Ricky Bailey / Building & Zoning Department
 - 3. Terry Brown / Park Department
 - 4. Barry Green / Fire Department
 - 5. Will Sanders / Police Department
 - 6. Bret Fisher / Light & Water Department
- J. City Attorney's Report
- K. Alderman's Report
- L. Mayor's Report

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009
5:30 P.M.
TRENTON CITY HALL

A regular scheduled meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Tony Burriss. The invocation was given by Alderman Cannon. Mayor Burriss welcomed all in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were elected officials, Alderman Abbott, Cannon, Gibson, Hammonds, Jackson, and Overall. City employees present were Sammy Dickey, Will Sanders, Richard Gossum, Bret Fisher, Terry Bailey, Ricky Bailey, Jenny Corbin, and Terry Brown. Present as visitors were Sandra Harper, Sharon Petty, Shannon Petty, Dotty Jones, Darryl Word, and Danny Jones.

RECORDER'S REPORT

City Recorder, Sammy Dickey, presented the 10th of the month bills. They were Electric Bill \$703,824.85, Water and Sewer \$26,515.06, General Fund \$339,871.90, and Sanitation \$21,913.98. Alderman Cannon made a motion to pay the 10th of the month bills. Alderman Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.

Alderman Gibson made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Sandra Harper with Trenton Special School District to speak first. Alderman Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.

APPROVAL OF SUPPORT TO TSSD FOR QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS

Trenton Special School District, Director of Schools, Sandra Harper came before council seeking the city's approval of support to the district for Qualified School Construction Bonds.

The state is receiving \$121 million for fiscal year 2009 and another \$121 million for fiscal year 2010 in stimulus money with Memphis and Shelby County automatically getting allocations. All other school systems must make competitive applications.

She explained that special school cannot receive the money without amending a private act. She stated that "a local government unit, or in our case, the city would be the go pledge or general obligation entity. Before we can even apply, we have to have your approval to be the go pledge and a letter signed by the mayor." "The stimulus funds are from \$2 million to the \$20 million range and were interested in the \$10 million that has a 15 year pay back at 0% interest. Funds must be completely utilized with a three-year period. Deadline for application is August 21 at 4 p.m."

Ms. Harper went over the district's needs for the next 20 years, some, that must be immediately, some that will come late, that includes adding repairing roof and air conditioning at PHS, adding classrooms at TES and TRMS, enlarging the seating capacity of the middle school gym, relocating the football field, necessitated by the addition of classrooms at the elementary school and a girls softball field.

Mayor Burriss asked City Attorney Richard Gossum for an interpretation of what the information from the state comptroller had said in the materials they had received. His opinion was that special school districts could not compete at this time, only cities and counties or local government units that operate school systems. "We don't have a city schools system. We have an independent entity that operates the schools. If there was a default of some type, they'd come to the city of Trenton to make it good." Mr. Gossum noted that part of the application comes from the city, with the latter being the borrower. "It's a real serious matter," he said.

Ms. Harper stated that it is her understanding that the city can apply on behalf of the school district.

Mayor Burriss reported he had been in conversation with MTAS and appears that the city can not assume the financial responsibility of another entity. "There is nothing we'd rather do than do this, but we are talking about taxpayers' monies and it could put a tremendous burden on them," Mayor Burriss said. Ms. Harper stated they could not apply without the city signing off.

Alderman Jim Overall, who is also on the school board, stated that the school district is financially sound.

After much discussion, the decision was made to have more time to research this matter. Alderman Cannon made a motion to have a called meeting Friday morning. Alderman Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.

TERRY BROWN / PARK DEPARTMENT

Terry informed council that the park did not receive the USDA grant that had been applied for, and plans to reapply next year.

BRET FISHER / TRENTON LIGHT AND WATER

Bret asked council to approve bad debt charge offs in the amount of \$52,306.08 which is down from \$54,501.99 last year. Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the charge offs. Alderman Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman Overall asked what the total money was that we had received from the dunking booth at the fair. The answer was \$65.00.

Mayor Burriss reminded everyone of the trip to Nashville Tuesday, August 18, to accept a \$500,000 grant.

There will be a BZA meeting Tuesday, August 18 at 11:00.

Foodrite is going to feed the police, sheriff department, department heads, council, and mayor September 10th.

With no other business a motion was made by Alderman Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 6:30. Alderman Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2009
TRENTON CITY HALL
8:00 A.M.

A called meeting of the Trenton City Council was called to order by Mayor Tony Burriss. The purpose of the called meeting was to discuss Trenton Special School District's request seeking support of the district's Qualified School Construction Bonds.

Mayor Burriss called the meeting to order and lead the prayer.

Those present were Aldermen Abbott, Cannon, Gibson, Hammonds, Jackson, Overall, and City Recorder Sammy Dickey. Present as a visitor was Danny Jones.

Mayor Burriss opened the meeting stating the need for everyone to have all the facts.

Mayor Burriss stated that he had spoken with David Bowling, the state director of local finance. Mr. Bowling informed Mayor Burriss that whenever the city borrows money it must have the approval of the state comptroller. When asked could the city sign on for the bonds and give them to the school district, Mayor Burriss was told that there is no law that allows the city to borrow money on behalf of another entity. Mayor Burriss stated, "If we chose to do so, it would be a huge risk for the city."

During much discussion, Mayor Burriss informed everyone that the city's ability to borrow large amounts of money for a possible future need would be jeopardized; due to already have a large amount of debt.

Ms. Harper is trying to get the attorney general's opinion.

Mayor Burriss told Director Harper the city would assist her by asking Senator Lowe Finney and State Representative Curtis Halford to get legislation introduced in the next session allowing special school districts to apply for loans next year.

Mayor Burriss also offered to call TML Bond Fund to see if they might allow Trenton Special School District to borrow this money. This money will be available in 2010 & 2011, if legislature passes law to allow special school districts to borrow, the TSSD can get the loan without the city having to sign.

After much discussion, the consensus was not to borrow this money for TSSD and help them any way possible without signing this \$10 million loan.

With no other business, a motion was made by Alderman Jackson adjourn the meeting at 8:17 a.m. Alderman Cannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.