

**TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2013
TRENTON CITY HALL
4:00PM**

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Mayor Burriss called the special called meeting to order then led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present for the meeting were Alderman Gibson, Hammonds, Jackson, Wade, and Overall. City employees present were Richard Gossum and Leigh Reynolds. Visitors were Odell Coleman, Diana King, Crystal Burns and Dexter Coleman.

NEW BUSINESS

NAME CLEARING HEARING FOR ODELL COLEMAN

The hearing has been requested by Odell Coleman after he was terminated on December 3, 2013 after allegations that he made sexual harassing remarks to some of the city's female employees. After interviewing 12 city employees and Mr. Coleman it was determined that Mr. Coleman had made sexual harassing statements to several female employees. Mr. Coleman denied that he had made sexual statements to any women employed by the City. Mr. Coleman was given the option to either resign or be terminated. Mr. Coleman stated he would have to be terminated because he was not guilty of making sexual remarks.

The special called meeting allows Mr. Coleman to make any comments referencing that he did not make sexual statements to any female employees. Mayor Burriss stated this is the only matter that we can hear and there will be no mention of any other situation, past events, or hearsay testimony.

Mr. Coleman came forward and stated he had worked for the city for 26 ½ years and never said a word out of the way to female employees. He stated he did not talk to them because he respected his job. He stated he would ask them to eat after he cooked but never said anything out of the way because he took his job serious.

Mayor Burriss asked the council if they would like to ask Mr. Coleman any questions.

Mr. Odell asked the Mayor if anyone had said anything about sexual statements until he told on Chrissy Burns. Mayor Burriss stated that a panel had interviewed 13 employees and they stated "you have said inappropriate statements". Mr. Coleman stated that he wanted to clear his name.

Mayor Burriss asked the board if they would like to ask or make any statements to Mr. Coleman.

Alderman Gibson told Mr. Coleman that personal feelings would have to be put aside and that we have to do what is right.

Alderman Jackson told Mr. Coleman that he knew he respected his job and that he was a big cut up, but after listening to interviews the statements were pretty explicit.

Mayor Burriss asked the board if anyone wanted to make a motion to change Mr. Odell Coleman status. No one made a motion so Mr. Coleman will remain terminated.

Alderman Hammonds made a motion to adjourn at 4:15pm. Alderman Overall seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Tony Burriss, Mayor

Leigh Reynolds, City Recorder