

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, February 24, 2025

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Andy Weh at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Berry (absent), Brown, Deien, Rakers (absent), Sampson (absent), Sims

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Officer Heier, Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, James Carr, James Griffin with Schain-Banks for Dimension Energy, Daniel Solorzano of Dimension Energy, Mr. Grasser and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun,

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Weh called upon Mr. James Carr. He recently purchased the property at 219 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and is in the process of renovating. He has a camper parked on the property and has been approached by the police who have informed him that per ordinance he is not allowed to live in the camper. Mr. Carr spoke with the mayor earlier about obtaining a variance to use his camper as an office and occasionally stay in it. The mayor informed Mr. Carr that a variance cannot be used in lieu of an ordinance. Attorney Heiligenstein explained that a variance is for the relaxation of standards set in the zoning code. This is not that situation. The police were following the ordinances. Chief Joellenbeck explained that the camper can stay where it is, but no one can stay in it. Several campground options were given to Mr. Carr.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN**

Alderman Brown stated that the garbage cans at the CILA home on W 3<sup>rd</sup> street have been out all week. The city will reach out to them.

**COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF**

Director Brockhahn informed the council that the effluent flow meter at the wastewater treatment plant needs to be replaced at a cost of \$3603.50.

The park clean-up day is set for March 8, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Chief Joellenbeck reminded everyone to lock their cars and take their keys and guns inside.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Brown made a motion to approve minutes of the February 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, including Weh. Berry, Sampson and Rakes absent. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Weh informed the Council that the public works department is still down two employees. Filling one of the vacancies was already built into the budget. There was discussion at the staff meeting this morning about filling the second vacancy. Clerk Buzzard was asked to calculate how this would impact the budget. She did that, and Director Brockhahn said after reviewing the numbers this would cause deficits in proprietary funds, so at this time he is not going to ask

Council to add this to the budget. If during the year an additional person is hired, we can always do a budget amendment.

Alderman Brown made a motion to Award Bid for Sewer Lining to Visu-Sewer in the amount of \$56,109.20. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, including Weh. Berry, Sampson and Rakers absent. Motion carried.

With our current Broadway TIF expiring this year, Council had previously authorized the creation of a new TIF district. Jared Kanallakan with Moran Economic Development has provided an adoption schedule for the new TIF district for the Council to review. No one had any objections with the timeline and instructed Clerk Buzzard to move forward with this.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Weh brought up for discussion again the 1% grocery tax that will expire at the end of this year. He is in favor of maintaining this tax. We have just put together the budget for the next fiscal year and it is tight. No replacement exists for the loss of that revenue. Those in attendance tonight were not opposed to continuing this tax. Clerk Buzzard was instructed to have this for action on the next agenda.

### **COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR**

Mayor Weh announced that on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 and Wednesday, March 12, 2025 he will host night hours from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. This is an opportunity for him to communicate with residents that work during the day. No appointment is necessary for these “Ask the Mayor” sessions.

### **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Daniel Solorzano with Dimension Energy passed out copies of their presentation for the installation of a community solar project proposed for an area south of Trenton’s city limits, but within our growth corridor. A special use permit application has been filed with the Clinton County Zoning Board and the County Board will have the final approval, but they have asked what the City’s position on this is. Mayor Weh and the Council are not in favor of this project. Dimension Energy would like our support of the project. Mr. Solorzano reviewed the handout and answered some questions. Currently, Dimension Energy has no projects up and running in the state of Illinois. To gain the support of the City, Dimension Energy would be willing to enter into either a pre-annexation agreement with the City or (in lieu of annexation) offer a Community Benefit Agreement. Preliminary details of both options were discussed. Attorney Heiligenstein pointed out the steps required for a pre-annexation and the timeline, stating that we may not have enough time to complete this and be able to have the County act at their April meeting. Attorney James Griffin said they are not worried about the timeframe as long as we both are working toward an agreement. Mayor Weh stated he was underwhelmed with the offer from Dimension Energy. Mr. Griffin and Mr. Solorzano will go back and see what they can do. Mayor Weh said that Council will discuss this further at our next meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Berry, Rakers and Sampson absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.