

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 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, March 24, 2025, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Berry, Brown, Deien, Rakers, Sampson, Sims All present.

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Officer Stogner, Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Attorney Joe Heiligenstein, Treasurer Megan Donjon, Barry Siren, Dave Brandmeyer, Paul Irby and Charlotte Parker with Dimension Energy and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun,

Mayor Weh recognized former Mayor Herb Schlarman for his many years of service to the City of Trenton. His funeral is scheduled for tomorrow. He asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Paul Irby with Dimension Energy walked through a revised Community Benefit Agreement with the City. This agreement would pay the City \$450,000.00 over 5 payments. There would also be a cap on the lifespan of the project of 30 years. At that time the project would either be de-commissioned or Dimension Energy would apply for an extension. Dimension Energy is also open to a pre-annexation agreement with the city. County code requires this. Additionally, Dimension Energy would like to have the city's Ameren accounts and residents to sign on as subscribers to them. Mayor Weh asked for a shorter payment schedule. Mr. Irby said typically payments are made when the project goes on-line. Attorney Heiligenstein suggested a payment when the county issues the building permit and final payment when the project is Placed in Service (PIS). This way there would be no risk for the city if the company gets sold or goes bankrupt as Dimension Energy has only been doing this for 8 years. Attorney Heiligenstein also stated that it would be difficult to get a pre-annexation completed by the city prior to the county's May meeting. There are specific guidelines and publication requirements to be completed. A pre-annexation agreement is only good for 20 years and the length of this project is 30. Ms. Parker explained the subscriber benefit terms. Most subscribers are commercial accounts, but residential accounts can be allowed. The discount for residential accounts is 10% and for commercial accounts is 20%. We would be the first project in Illinois. We asked for other references so we can talk with other municipalities that have worked with Dimension Energy. Mr. Irby will put together a revised proposal and send it to us.

PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Weh thanked everyone that came out to help their neighbors clean up after the high winds and tornados that we had recently. He also thanked both the police and public works departments for their efforts.

Mayor Weh read a statement regarding the Tut property.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

Alderman Brown asked that everyone be careful if burning during high winds. Don't ever leave a fire unattended.

Alderman Rakers questioned the setting off of the tornado sirens. He wanted to know if the first time they were set off was a false alarm. Chief Joellenbeck said that sirens are activated based on the National Weather Service and Code Red. He also wanted everyone to know that the city does not set off an “all clear” siren.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director of Public Works Brockhahn said that Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) bids will be opened on March 26, 2025 at 9:00 am. No slag is available this year so there is the possibility that trap rock may be used instead, or limestone, which will be dusty.

On April 1, 2025 there will be a pre-construction meeting on the pipelining project.

It is spring and downpours will happen. If you don’t clean up the leaves from your yard, they will fill your ditches and cause water to back up. Please clean your yards.

Chief Joellenbeck said that it was confirmed an EF-2 tornado touched down outside of Trenton on the 14th. Nothing has been confirmed related to Jim’s Formal Wear yet. He thanked the Sugar Creek Fire Department for their assistance with traffic control on IL160 so the power company could replace the power poles and restore power to Trenton.

Do not give any information to anyone posing as your bank. This is a new scam. If you receive a call, hang up and go to or call your bank.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Minutes of the March 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Brown made a motion to Approve Professional Services Agreement with HMG for Reconstruction of alley between Broadway and West 1st Street from Washington to Main, North Main Street apron reconstruction at Broadway, and Ash Street curbing at New Concession Stand. Second Alderman Sims. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve Placement of three (3) “Autistic Child at Play” signs on N Walnut and E 5th Streets, with signs to be removed if resident no longer occupies 422 N Walnut, Trenton, IL. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, motion carried.

Director of Public Works Brockhahn stated the overhead flashing light at Broadway and Madison belongs to the city and not IDOT. It is very expensive to replace and currently it is unsafe, shocking our workers when they replace a bulb. Director Brockhahn has reached out to IDOT and they will allow us to remove that light. This will allow us to remove two (2) poles and wires at that intersection cleaning it up. Director Brockhahn suggests replacing the overhead light with solar powered LED beacon lights. This would also eliminate a power bill for the city. Alderman Brown was concerned with fast cars approaching from the north that if there was no overhead light they would go through the intersection. There would be a flashing light in each direction. Director Brockhahn will get pricing for the replacement beacons.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Brown made a motion to enter closed session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Probable or Pending Litigation. Second Alderman Rakers. The council entered closed session at 7:04 p.m.

The council re-entered the regular meeting at 7:18 p.m. Roll Call: Brown, Berry, Sims, Deien, Rakers, Sampson. All present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weh offered condolences to Karen Buzzard on the passing of her father-in-law, Jerry Buzzard.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Deien made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Rakers. All yes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk