

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 10, 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 10, 2025, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Officer Stogner, Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Dave Brandmeyer, Brad Knolhoff of Clinton County Board, Doug Ratermann of HMG Engineering and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun,

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Weh informed the Council that he attended the Clinton County Zoning Board meeting last week to oppose the proposed solar farm on the Grasser property south of Trenton. Paul Irby with Dimension Energy has been in constant contact with the mayor and would like to come to a City Council meeting to present his project and get Council support for the project. Mayor Weh called upon Brad Knolhoff to explain to Council why the county is asking for the city's input on this project. Mr. Knolhoff said that in 2023 the state law related to solar changed and stripped the counties of much of their power to regulate this. Clinton county is looking to protect adjacent property owners and feels that if a request for a solar farm is within the mile and one-half radius of a municipality, that municipality should have a say in that decision. The county board feels if the developer and the municipality can work out an agreement, then the county will support that. Mayor Weh asked if any other municipality in Clinton County has done this yet. Mr. Knolhoff said no one else has applied for a solar farm within the 1.5 mile radius of a municipality yet. He has been made aware of possible talks in Aviston right now, but no application has been filed with the county. Alderman Sims asked for other locations that Dimension Energy has put in solar farms in Illinois. Mr. Knolhoff said that he is still waiting on that information. Mr. Irby has had many conversations with Mayor Weh and has offered to assist Trenton with a project if we are interested. Several aldermen did not like the optics associated with that. They are willing to listen to what he has to say. Mayor Weh will arrange for Mr. Irby to attend a future meeting. Mayor Weh opposes this project and reiterated that if Trenton doesn't object to this then how can we oppose any future growth from this company. Mr. Knolhoff stated that the special use issued from the county would be for a specific number of acres. Anything beyond that would require the developer to apply for another special use.

PUBLIC INPUT

Dave Brandmeyer said at the last meeting there was discussion about foundation problems at the library. He asked at what point is this location considered a money pit and you look for a new location for the library. Mayor Weh agreed and asked if Mr. Brandmeyer had any suggestions for a new location. Possibly, but that is not a conversation for right now.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Director Brockhahn informed the council that there was a leak at the water tower which was able to be fixed under pressure.

A couple of sinkholes have been discovered in alleys. One is in the alley behind Brefeld Plumbing. The cause of that one has been traced back to a broken lateral from a homeowner across the alley. They are working on a solution.

The Mayor, Director Brockhahn, and Clerk Buzzard met recently with Scott Meinhardt and Jerry Green to review our adopted building codes and discuss the main differences in the newer versions. We are still working on possible exemptions from the newer versions before we decide which code year to adopt.

The bid opening for sewer pipe lining is tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

Chief Joellenbeck said this is a new year and new license stickers should be on your vehicles. He also said that his officers would be starting to issue citations for junk so clean your properties up.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Sampson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Berry and Brown absent. The consent agenda included a motion to approve minutes of the January 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to approve bills for the month of January 2025, a motion to approve payrolls for the month of January 2025, and a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Sampson made a motion to Approve Resolution 20250210 Providing the Motor Fuel Tax Program for 2025. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. Berry and Brown absent. This would actually be for fiscal year 2026. The focus for MFT this year would be reclaiming and resurfacing Main street from the railroad tracks north to the city limits. Lincoln street would be done also.

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Rakers made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Sampson. All yes, motion carried. Berry and Brown absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk