

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Brandmeyer at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by 4th grader, Keegan Donjon.

ROLL CALL

Deien, Hooker, Bridick, Jervis, Rakers, Sims All Present.

Also present was Chief Chris Joellenbeck, Director of Public Works Andy Brockhahn, Treasurer Megan Donjon, Kevin Litteken and Steve Buzzard from Jim's Formal Wear, Barry Sieron, Jared Kanallakan of Moran Economic Development and Mike Conley of the Trenton Sun,

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Jared Kanallakan of Moran Economic Development is here tonight to discuss with Council a proposed new business district. Mr. Kanallakan said this discussion started several years ago when the topic of the Broadway TIF extension was being considered. Currently Trenton has a couple of small business districts. The thought now is to overlay the new Broadway TIF district with a business district and absorb the existing small business districts into this newly created one. Similar to a TIF, the city would collect revenues and use them to pay for eligible expenses. Business district funds can be used for new construction, unlike TIF funds, but cannot be used for interest costs like TIF funds can. This would be another economic development tool for the city. Typically, a business district is up and running more quickly than a TIF and can be used for improvements that bolster TIF too. Business districts revenues are generated by an additional sales tax of up to 1%. This tax would not apply to medicine or durable medical goods, groceries, and licensed items. Preliminary revenue projections at 1% would be \$300,000 annually. Alderman Sims wanted to know if this has been discussed with our business owners. Mayor Brandmeyer attended a chamber of commerce event. He presented a project that he would like to complete with business district funds. The downtown improvement project that has been talked about for quite a few years needs to be completed. The business owners agreed. Mayor Brandmeyer proposes taking 50% of the revenues generated by the business district to pay for the downtown project. There was more discussion about how much of the revenues should be earmarked for this project and whether any TIF money should be paid back to the school district. Mr. Kanallakan explained that the split of funds to be held for projects and whether to pay TIF money to the school district are internal decisions made by the Council. There are no rules/laws that regulate that. Mike Conley was asked his opinion as a business owner. He said that the downtown project has been identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan as the most important project for completion, and to accomplish that a revenue stream must be identified. No one likes taxes, but he is in favor of this.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Sieron asked when City Hall was going to be completed. Not for quite a while. Plumbers will be coming this week to do their work and hopefully the electric work will begin soon too.

Kevin Litteken, on behalf of Jim's Formal Wear, thanked the Council for the TIF assistance that Jim's recently received. They really appreciated it.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

Mayor Brandmeyer passed out a schedule of events for America 250. There are a lot of fun events coming up. In addition, there will be a fundraiser. Individuals or families will be able to

purchase their name on a bronze plaque that will be either mounted on or near the new amphitheater. The park boosters will conduct a similar fundraiser for the businesses.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS- ALDERMEN

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY STAFF

Chief Joellenbeck announced that former Mayor Virgil Ripperda passed away. He was 99 years old.

Clerk Buzzard reminded the Council that there will be a public hearing at the next council meeting for the pre-annexation required for the solar farm application submitted by Forefront Solar. There will be a public hearing about the budget at the first meeting in April.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Deien made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Alderman Jervis. All yes, motion carried. The consent agenda included a motion to Approve Minutes of the February 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, a motion to approve Bills for the month of February 2026, a motion to approve the Payrolls for the month of February 2026, a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the month of January 2026, and a motion to approve Appointment of Hank Henderson to Library Board to fill vacancy. Term to expire 7/2027.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Jervis made a motion to Approve Ordinance 1889 Amending Water Rates. Second Alderman Hooker. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve Ordinance 1890 Amending Sewer Rates. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried.

Alderman Hooker made a motion to Approve Contract with Moran Economic Development for Consulting Services. Second Alderman Jervis. Alderman Rakers asked where the rest of the council stands on this before we spend the money to have the study done and put this all in place. He currently is against it. Alderman Deien said he is on the fence. He would like to see some of the parameters changed in that more of the business district money would be held for infrastructure projects and none of the TIF money would be paid back to the school. Mayor Brandmeyer said that if we don’t do this now, he doesn’t see it ever being done. Roll Call: all yes, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Rakers made a motion to adjourn. Second Alderman Deien. All yes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Karen Buzzard, City Clerk