

Message from the Mayor #31 11-26-2008

When I first decided to write this article every other week for the newspaper, the main intent was to keep you informed on what was happening in the city. I hope I have done that and you feel a little more connected to the happenings around town. Today, I need to make you aware of something that maybe some of you have heard about and before it gets out of hand, I want to let you know what is going on.

About a month ago, a couple of incidents happened in our police department that aroused the suspicions of our police chief. He found some discrepancies in the monies that were being receipted and the monies that were being turned in to him for deposit. After a little investigation, we are sure that some monies have been taken. Since that time, two people have left the department and we have had no further discrepancies.

I have notified our auditors, District Attorney Gary Brown's office, The State Municipal Comptroller's Office, and the TBI. In January, the Comptroller's Office will be here to conduct an investigation to determine how much is missing and how long this has been going on. I wish I could tell you more, but that is all I know at this time. It is always unfortunate when things like this take place but I can assure you that I will go as far as I need to get at the truth and if it is possible to indict someone for wrong doing, I will pursue the possibility as far as I can. I apologize for this and since we found it on my watch, I will take responsibility for it. We have already put several new procedures into place to assure this will not take place again.

While we are focused on bad news, let me tell you something that is extremely disappointing. Every other year we apply for sewer rehabilitation thru a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Tennessee. To this date we have redone sewers on College, Church, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and Taylor Streets. This year, due to the economy and some others factors, we did not receive the grant. We will resubmit the grant next year and hopefully we will receive it. The grants are selected on a point system based on need and this year 10 cities were selected. We were number 14. This also is an indicator that grants are not as easy to get as they once were. I want you to know that we will still apply for all grants that we feel will be beneficial to the city with the hope of landing as many as we can.

Now, let's have some good news. We are finishing up on our waterline project on South College Street. This is the main line that runs to the water tank located by Harlan Morris. It was in bad need of repair and this ought to fix us up for the next 30 years. If your property was involved in the project and you have problems, call Trenton Light and Water and they will address them before the crew leaves town. From what I have seen, they have done a pretty good job.

As of Monday, November 24th, our First Responder Program has been up and running. They have received all their training, passed all their tests and passed their protocols. So as of now, we have a first line of medical care right here in the city. My congratulations go to all those fire fighters and police officers who put in the extra time to make Trenton a little safer place to live.

Don't forget the City Stew on the 18th of December at City Hall. It's just a small way for us to pay back all you do during the year. It's delicious stew and there's always great fellowship. If you have never been, you are missing a treat. See you there.

The annual Trenton Employee Christmas Party will be held at the Armory on Monday, December 8th. It's the only opportunity I get to see all the employees at one time since we work 24-7. I'm really looking forward to it.

On Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 the Gibson County Community Band will give its Winter Concert. They have been working hard since September to put this program together. There will be works by Sousa, Gershwin, as well as patriotic and some Christmas music. It's something for everybody. Don't miss it. It will be held in the Little Theater at Peabody High School and admission is free.

I hope you are enjoying the new Christmas lights. We still have a few bugs in them but I think they look great.

I hate it when I have to bring bad news, but sometimes I have to. We all need to try and stay positive, especially these days, and when something negative comes along, we need to fix it and move on. We need to focus our attention towards new hope in our city, state and our country. We realize that things need fixing and that is the first step toward getting them fixed. I personally have great faith that our lives will get better because I know people who want it to be that way. We need to cut ourselves off from those who would bring us down and focus on making our lives what we want them to be. In Trenton we have already taken steps to improve our existence. Are you taking full advantage of recycling? If not, when are you going to start? Are you keeping your property up? How does your neighbor see your property and are they happy that you are next door? We now have people in the city that can come to your aid before the ambulance gets there.

Now, on the other hand, I know many of you need a job or a better place to live. These things are also on my mind and there are those who are working on those problems. Now, more than ever, I know that Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Until next time, God Bless Trenton.