

**Message from the Mayor
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Well, it's budget time and we have been working since February to prepare the city budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year. I have learned quite a bit about how the city runs by participating in the process and am confident that our tax dollars have been well spent and will continue being well spent in the future. Many thanks go to Alderman Jim Overall for chairing the committee as well as Alderman Ricky Jackson and Alderman Joe Hammonds for sitting on the committee. The process would have not been complete without our City Recorder, Sammy Dickey and our head bookkeeper Audrey Snyder. They were a tremendous help.

The total budget came out to \$4,082,099. General Fund revenues (taxes, city stickers, business licenses, police and court related revenues, etc...) will be \$3,546,499 and Sanitation Fund (garbage collection) revenues will be \$535,600. If you will allow me, I will tell you how much is budgeted to each department. General Government, which is the main office where I work and you buy your city stickers and pay your taxes is budgeted \$1,378,891; the Police Department receives \$1,012,135; our City Court is allotted \$123,785; the Fire Department gets \$473,382; the Building Inspector is budgeted \$76,241 (two-thirds of which is refunded by the county); the Street Department gets \$416,978, the City Cemetery receives \$8,700; the Parks Department receives \$46,672; Sanitation gets \$524,142; and the Drug Enforcement Fund gets \$20,000. I'm sure fuel prices will throw us another curve ball, as it did this year, and the cost of collecting garbage is always a concern. We balanced this budget not having to use reserve funds and with no tax increase. We are going to have to get creative to find ways to save money without cutting services back drastically. We are going to have to possibly cut down the number of days a city truck runs by your house from 5 to 3. We are changing companies to save on waste disposal, which by the way is killing us. We continue to offer many city services that other cities have long since abandoned and we are proud of that. It is our intention to keep doing that as long as we can. I just thought you would like to know.

I want to thank all of you that have been maintaining your property and keeping your yards cleaned up. The number of letters I have had to send is steadily and continuously decreasing. I realize we still have properties that are a concern and we are working to fix them. I am also aware that some local businesses are a concern. If I were a business owner and I knew that people complained about the way my business looked, I think I would do something to fix it. I still am of the mindset that a properly maintained business has the potential to make even more profit than they are now making.

Speaking of trash, I have noticed that when I send the city crew out to clean out a ditch, almost all the time, that ditch is full of trash. If everyone would clean the trash out of the ditches in front of their houses, we would see a substantial improvement in the way water runs off after a rain. The ditch in front or at the side of your property is yours to maintain. We can not, by state law, come on your land to work unless city services are located there. Help yourself and your neighbors out by giving run off water a place to go.

Hey, here's something positive. Our local option sales tax money for the city was \$94,466.85 in April. That is the most it has been since I entered office in October. I suspect that high gas prices are keeping some of us in town. I hope to see two great things come of this. First, a lot of us realize we can shop here and we don't have to go out of town to get everything we need. Secondly, I hope our merchants will make sure we have what we need to stay here and do business. Let's shoot for \$100,000 next month.

It looks like you will be able to buy fireworks starting on June 28th and continue your fun till July the 5th this year. The council voted to amend the new ordinance to allow more time for sales. Remember, you can only shoot fireworks in your own yard or the yard of someone

who has given you permission. You can not fire them on city property or in the streets. Also, there will be a strict 10:00 p.m. curfew. I have asked our police department to go out of their way to enforce this ordinance due to the fact that many of you will experience some inconvenience brought on by misuse of fireworks. I do not intend to put up with some of the incidents we experienced last year and the city council has assured everyone than a complete ban on fireworks is a possibility if they are abused this year. We can have fun in a positive manner and all have a pleasant holiday.

Recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic, and aluminum is coming to Trenton. I have talked to several different companies lately and I am trying to come up with a way we can most efficiently do this. It probably means you will have to bring your recyclables to a specific location, but we can start making a difference and you know as well as I, we must start.

The First Baptist Church is holding their mission trip in the city this week. Try to support what they are doing by attending their events or by helping out in some way. Helping people in your own backyard is a good start. Many thanks to all those who will be participating for their community concern.

Summer's almost here, even though it has felt like it for the past few weeks, and I hope you are planning some fun time. Let's plan on a safe 4th of July weekend and be proud of the place we live. Let's not let the actions of the few affect our lifestyle. If someone is infringing on your rights, call us. That's what we are here for. If you have not visited our website, please do at www.trentontn.net. Send me an email at trentonmayor@bellsouth.net if you have something you would like to discuss or come by and visit. The door to my office is always open to you. Remember to shop Trenton and support our city. We live in a wonderful town and a place I know I am proud to call home. You know, Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.