

## Message from the Mayor #59 12-30-2009

Since it's the beginning of a new year and arguably a new decade, let's talk about the future. There are two ways to approach the conversation; we can approach the subject believing that everything is gloom and doom and we are inevitably going down the drain or; you can take the attitude that eventually things will gradually get better and at some point in the future, we will see better days. I subscribe to the latter scenario because I believe that people will find a way to make it work again. I do believe that if we conduct our business as we have in the past, it jeopardizes our recovery. We must all be willing to change the way we think and realize we are not entitled to everything we want. We need to focus on the things we need to survive and not living beyond our means. I am sure many of you have become painfully aware of that set of circumstances over the past months. I know we have here in city government.

What are some of the goals that the City Council and I would like to see accomplished in 2010? 1.) Bring jobs into Trenton – This is and continues to be our #1 priority and the hardest goal to accomplish. We continue to communicate with industrial prospects on a monthly basis. We provide incentives, tax cuts, inexpensive buildings, and an eager and reliable workforce. We will continue to do these things as long as we have empty buildings to house prospective industries. Even though it will never be like it was 25 years ago, some industry will find a home here. We have some really great buildings such as the Kellwood, Quebecor and Speculation Building to offer and the Council and Industrial Board will do whatever possible to draw industry here.

2.) Start the renovation of Shady Acres Park – It would be easy to spend \$500,000 in redoing the park but we do not have that kind of money, so we will have to do it a little at a time and work on priorities first. Our first reaction is to work on the restrooms at the pavilion and concession stand and to renovate and add on to the pavilion. This project alone will probably run close to \$100,000, so we will have to work on how to pay for the improvements. The state has suspended Park and Recreation Grants until probably 2012 so, as of right now, there are no grant monies available. Outside of the children's playground on the west side of the park, no substantial monies have been spent on the park in several years. The Council and I are committed to improve this area where we see so much traffic.

3.) Escalate the fight to rid Trenton of illegal drugs- I am not naïve enough to believe that we will totally rid this city of drugs. No one on the planet can do that, but I'm not convinced that we are doing all we can to make it hard for a drug dealer to do business in Trenton. I am asking the West Tennessee Drug Taskforce and our police department to help me do all we can to rid ourselves of one of the worst kind of vermin alive; a drug dealer.

4.) Continue to work on city beautification – We will put our grants to work by revitalizing downtown, tearing abandoned properties down, working with businesses to clean up and straighten up, recycling, urging residents to keep their properties clean and groomed in order to continue to make Trenton a place you can be proud of and where others would like to move to.

5.) Continue work on the Downtown Pedestrian Park – We will be installing the fountain, building sidewalks with engraved pavers and adding some benches and tables next year. Future plans for a performance stage, a patio and other improvements are still on the list of things we would like to do.

These are just a few among many other goals we are going to work on in the coming year. We have written grants to do more downtown renovation, build sidewalks for our young people to walk to school on, place School Resource Officers in our middle and high schools and purchase rescue equipment for our fire department. We will continue Saturday on the Square, find more efficient ways to collect your sanitation, increase the percentage of residents and businesses that are recycling, do a superior job with the 2010 Census and search for ways to draw more tourists to visit our teapots, Civil War Trail and historic houses. We have our work cut out for us.

With all of these challenges, we still need to do all we can to keep the business and industry that is here now financially successful. We need to find more ways to exhibit our pride in our community and I have a couple of ideas that I will be sharing with you at a later date. Our success as a city is important and takes all of us. I used to ask the question about what you are personally doing to make Trenton better. Many of you are working very hard and your contribution is appreciated even though sometimes it doesn't seem so. I'm sure that 2010 will be a great year for us and even though Trenton isn't perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

**Tony Burriss**  
**Mayor, City of Trenton**  
**309 South College Street**  
**Trenton, Tennessee 38382**  
**731-855-2013 (work)**  
**731-695-6209 (mobile)**  
**trentonmayor@bellsouth.net**