

Minutes of the *Regular* Meeting of the Trenton Town Council held on Tuesday December 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Trenton Town Hall, 17 East Main, Trenton, Utah.

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Present:	Mayor:	Lynn Payne
	Councilmember:	Erick Simmonds
		Donny Merrill- 7:02 p.m.
		John Nelson
		Kyle Kingston
	Clerk	Macall Smith

Guests: Kacee John, Trenton Water Operator, Ed Cottle, Janet Cottle, Karen Bell, Cleone Allsop, Darin Mathis, Megan Downs, Rena McKendrick, Kathy Merrill, Craig Merrill, Joan Hansen, Jay Rinderkenect, Seth Bird, Sandy Spackman, Barney Newton, Sheri Newton, Pauline Udy, Stacey Wangsgard, Andrew Diamond, Daris Page, Dixie Page, Mark Adams and Rigo Roberto.

The audience and the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Payne called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2, 2025, MEETING AGENDA WITH COUNCILMEMBER KINGSTON SECONDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Payne asked for approval of the November 4, 2025, meeting minutes. COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING MINUTES NOTING THAT IT SHOULD SAY MAYOR PAYNE INSTEAD OF COUNCILMEMBER PAYNE, WITH COUNCILMEMBER SIMMONDS SECONDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

Mayor Payne asked for approval of the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes. COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2025, MEETING MINUTES WITH COUNCILMEMBER SIMMONDS SECONDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

Public Comment

Mayor Payne asked for any comments that were not part of the water public hearing. Sheri Newton thanked Justin Adams and the entire Adams family for the Christmas lights and decorations at the town park.

Sandy Spackman asked if there were plans to install a second “blind child” sign on 1200 East. Mayor Payne asked Councilmember Merrill who stated that yes there is a second sign and he plans on installing it.

Update of Cemetery Policy & Procedures

Councilmember Simmonds read the updated Policy & Procedures for the Council and members of the public to review. COUNCILMEMBER KINGSTON MOVED TO ADOPT THE UPDATED CEMETERY POLICY AND PROCEDURES WITH COUNCILMEMBER SIMMONDS SECONDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing to receive input for Ordinance 25-12-01 An Ordinance to Place a restriction on the Issuance of New Water Connections

COUNCILMEMBER SIMMONDS MOVED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE

INPUT FOR ORDINANCE 25-12-25 AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE A RESTRICTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW WATER CONNECTIONS AT 7:18 P.M. WITH COUNCILMEMBER NELSON SECONDDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

Councilmember Nelson presented the proposed changes to the ordinance, explaining that the town had been restricted to 2 water connections per year for several years but was considering returning to 6 hookups per year, which was the limit from 2000 to 2020. He presented water usage data showing the town spills 70,000+ gallons of water per day even during July (the tightest month for water usage), and noted that the springs were also leaking about 25,000 gallons daily that could be fixed.

Mayor Payne expressed concerns about changing the restriction, noting:

- The town already has 5 approved hookups that haven't been put to use yet.
- About 23 homes have been built during his term as mayor.
- He felt more caution was needed without solid information.
- He recalled a period when the town had to implement water restrictions.
- The town still owes money on its water system, limiting the ability to secure more water because the town's resources are already tied up.

A lengthy discussion ensued about water availability, with several points raised:

- Councilmember Nelson questioned the accuracy of historical water usage data.
- Councilmember Nelson presented detailed monthly water usage data for 2025 showing significant amounts of water being spilled each month.
- Questions were raised about data from 2019-2020 when the ordinance was originally changed.
- Concerns about the town's ability to secure additional water from neighboring communities.
- The economic impact of restricting growth versus the need for water security.
- Councilmember Nelson shared that the town has about 50 more hook-ups they can give out without worrying about running out of water. He stated that he feels the town should go back to giving out 6 per year and then be more proactive about obtaining more water.

Several public comments were made:

- Craig Merrill raised concerns about the dairies within town increasing the number of cows being milked, thus increasing the demand on the town's water supply.
- Darin Mathis suggested waiting until firm agreements were in place with neighboring communities before increasing the number of hookups, he also shared that Cache County is now limiting subdivisions to 5 lots due to water issues. He also asked that conflicts of interest be considered by the Council as they consider the change.
- Andrea Diamond expressed concerns about the slow growth approach and its impact on property owners' retirement plans.
- Karen Bell agreed with Andrea Dimond that limiting the amount of water hook-ups would impact retirement plans of her parents.
- Megan Downs questioned how the waters commitments to businesses like IFA would impact water use in the future. She also expressed concern about increasing to 6, suggesting that the town gradually increase the number.
- Dixie Page asked about building additional storage to catch the water that is spilling.
- Rena McKendrick pointed out the survey done of town residents showed that the majority of the public felt comfortable with 2 hook-ups per year.
- Janet Cottle noted that selling lots was an important part of retirement planning for some residents.
- Sheri Newton expressed support for increasing the limit to 6 hookups per year.
- Jay Rinderkenkt shared his experience helping the town with a pump station but then facing challenges with water access for his cattle
- Several residents discussed the balancing of property rights with water conservation.
- Stacey Wangsgard suggested exercising caution suggesting that the town give out 1 additional hook up this year and one more the next year. She also stated that in the past Lewiston wanted to

go through the water conservation district to sell water to other communities.

- Joan Hansen suggested one additional hook-up this year and see how that goes.

Councilmember Merrill proposed tabling the decision until March 2026, when more information would be available from:

- Two studies that are expected to be completed in January/February.
- A meeting with Rural Water regarding water rates in February.
- Discussions with Amalga and Lewiston about potential water agreements.
- The completion of a new water master plan.

Ordinance #25-12-01- An Ordinance to Place a restriction on the Issuance of New Water Connections

COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO TABLE ORDINANCE 25-12-01 AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE A RESTRICTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW WATER CONNECTIONS UNTIL THE MARCH 3, 2026, MEETING WHEN ADDITIONAL STUDIES CAN BE DONE AND THEN MOVE FORWARD WITH A DECISION. COUNCILMEMBER KINGSTON SECONDED THE MOTION WITH ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 25-12-01 AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE A RESTRICTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW WATER CONNECTIONS AT 8:36 P.M. WITH COUNCILMEMBER SIMMONDS SECONDING THE MOTION WITH ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.

Parks/Recreation/Cemetery update

Councilmember Simmonds reported that he was planning on contacting the County regarding potential RAPZ grant applications for next year, he asked if there were any suggestions from the Council for projects. He explained that the contractor is expected to visit in a couple of weeks and begin work on the new restrooms at the park. He updated the Council on the project at the town hall and pavilion sharing that the new windows will be installed in the town hall on December 12 and the furnace in the pavilion has been replaced and is working well, sharing that new electronic thermostats were installed in the buildings, and the batteries will need to be monitored. He informed the Council that the town is still waiting on money for the cemetery project.

Roads update

Councilmember Merrill reported that Cache County Council approved the second phase of the 800 South project from 800 East to 400 East, awarding \$619,606 to the town with an 8% match from the town. He shared that on phase two of 800 South the engineer is working on plans to get across the West Cache irrigation canal before irrigation season begins next spring. He explained that the first phase has been completed, with Parsons sloping the south side of the shoulder and that grinding the stumps at the intersection of 800 East will be completed in the spring. Councilmember Merrill explained that discussions with UDOT regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 43 revealed that a stoplight is not possible unless traffic in both directions is equal but that lighting, signage, and radar-detected speed limit signs (at \$5,000 each) could be installed, he also shared that a right-hand turning lane is a possibility but would need further exploration. Mark Adams expressed concerns about the speed limit through town and the safety of the school bus stop.

Planning & Zoning update

Councilmember Kingston shared that the Commission continues work on the subdivision ordinance but that the IADU ordinance has been temporarily halted while working on the connectivity definition they have had discussions with the County regarding what connectivity means in state code, as their definition differs from the state's and will continue the work when the question has been cleared up.

Water update

Councilmember Nelson let the Council know that the valves at the reservoir are being repaired. Mayor

Payne asked if Councilmember Nelson had discussed with Mayor Wood of Amalga the possibility of them sending water toward Trenton if needed for a project like this. Councilmember Nelson stated that Trenton may use the interconnect when fixing valves on the pipeline. Councilmember Nelson discussed the need for some measuring devices on the springs in Clarkston and shared that he continues to work with Kevin Rhodes to get spring metering information.

Mayor Update

Mayor Payne stated that he had nothing for his report. Councilmember Merrill thanked Mayor Payne for his years of service and the audience agreed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:57 PM WITH COUNCILMEMBER KINGSTON SECONDING THE MOTION AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTING AYE.