

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Lin, Binnie, Ratzlaff, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Attorney Paul Hagen, Police Chief Ken Thrailkill, W&K Engineer Rebecca Crow.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – No closed session.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Fulkerson/Binnie) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 14, 2008 cc

Motion (Binnie/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie - Parks and Recreation, Streets – ***Nothing to report.***

Bhardwaj – Health & Human Services, Planning

Planning: Summarized highlights from the View Restoration Permit discussion at the May Planning Commission meeting. Announced that the removal of the tall Chevron sign will be discussed at the June meeting.

Lin – Water, Town Hall – There will be 2 Council seats available at the upcoming November 2008 general election. Nomination period opens July 13. Announced that water rates will increase 4.2% beginning July 1, 2009.

Fulkerson – Public Safety – ***Nothing to report.***

Ratzlaff – Finance – ***Nothing to report.***

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager - Albright: Summarized various highlights and updates made to the staff activities and managers report submitted to the council in the meeting packet.

City Attorney – Hagen: ***Nothing to report***

Police Chief – Thrailkill – Announced service calls and statistics for the month.

City Clerk – Adams – Attended PARSAC Board of Directors meeting in Sacramento in May. Nothing major to report, but brought back ADA survival guide for small cities, and another document regarding governmental immunities that may be of some value to City Council or Staff in the future. No major insurance rate changes are expected this year.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)

Dean Heyenga – Trinidad

Giving up valuable, coastal, public property is a major decision. Eureka's dealings and relationship with the Wiyot Tribe show how a city government can transfer land to a Native American group in a constructive, positive way. By

not transferring the entire Island to Indian ownership, the City established a cooperative working relationship with the Tribe, helping with the restoration of the site. Urged the Council to proceed with careful deliberation and much public discussion.

City Manager Steve Albright announced that public meetings would be held on June 26th at 1:00pm, and again at 7:00pm to discuss the transfer.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through May, 2008.
2. Financial Status Report through April, 2008.
3. Resolution 2008-12 Authorizing the Submittal of Projects for Funding under Proposition 1B.
4. Resolution 2008-13 Approving a Grant Agreement with California Coastal Conservancy.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Binnie) to approve the consent agenda as submitted. **Passed unanimously.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Resolution 2008-14 Adopting FY 2009 Budget.
City Manager Albright explained that the draft FY2009 Budget has been prepared over the past two months. It has been provided to the public for review and comment at public meetings on May 28 and June 4, 2008. The final draft budget being presented for Council consideration includes many comments and changes that came as a result of those public meetings.

The draft budget has five major components:

- General Fund Revenue;
- General Fund Expenditures (by Department);
- Police Department (by funding sources)
- Enterprise Fund Budgets (Water Department and the Cemetery); and
- Special revenue Fund Budgets.

Two additional budget-related reports will be provided at a later date. First, there will be a description provided for each line item that will act as a back up to the justification of budget figures for use in future years. Second, the existing "reserve" accounts will be divided between obligations and discretionary reserves. This will provide the Council of a truer picture on what funds are actually available for use as needed.

Public comment included:

Mike Morgan – Captain, TVFD

The Fire Department is looking into replacing the rescue vehicle and financing options. Thanked the Council for supporting the Fire Department budget proposal.

Motion (Fulkerson/Ratzlaff) to approve proposed Resolution 2008-14 adopting the FY2008-2009 Budget.

Passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 2008-15 Adopting the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan.
Mayor Chi-Wei Lin explained that the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan has been developed in order to improve ocean water quality around Trinidad Head and surface water in the watershed that drains into this coastal region. The main objectives of this planning effort are the protection of both local drinking water supplies and the ocean kelp beds offshore of Trinidad, a State-designated Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

The planning effort was funded by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources Proposition 50, Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Planning (ICWMP) Grant Program. The planning effort was also supported by the Critical Coastal Area Pilot Program of the California Coastal Commission.

The planning region includes 7 watersheds that have significant impact to the water quality of the Trinidad Head ASBS. The area covers approximately 6,400 acres and includes the City of Trinidad, the communities of Westhaven and Moonstone, and the Trinidad Rancheria. Although the City of Trinidad was the lead agency, the ICWMP was developed collaboratively by a working group comprised of City staff consultants, community members, local and State public agency, and individuals from private organizations.

The plan includes the following major components:

- a. Description of the plan region and major water quality issues in the region.
- b. List of management strategies considered to address these issues.
- c. Identification of the short-term and long-term priorities for the implementation of the plan.
- d. Description of specific projects recommended for implementation, including action plans for the management of wastewater, storm water and sediment. Details of these plans are included in the Appendix Section of the Plan.

The draft Plan for public review was completed in February of 2008. The draft was made available to the public on the City's website and as hard copies in the City Hall for the public to review and make comments during a 45 day review period. Subsequently, the draft plan was revised to incorporate a number of comments. The final draft is now submitted to the Council for consideration of adoption.

Adoption of plan does not obligate the Council to any course of action or responsibility. However, adoption of the plan does indicate that the Council is in support of this effort and is in favor of seeing the accomplishment of the goals of this plan. Adoption of the plan by the Council also strengthens the City's position to seek funding to support the implementation of this effort.

Public comment included:

Steve Ruth – Trinidad

What mechanism is in place to obligate the communities outside the City to support the program?

Sungnome Madrone – Fox Farm

The Watershed Council was formed to assist in encouraging and developing incentives to residents in surrounding communities to upgrade their septic systems, roads, etc., instead of implementing harsh enforcement policies. However, the State is "laying down the hammer", but it is the Council's objective to be ahead of the curve, not behind it.

Madrone further explained that the stakeholders (Trinidad Rancheria, City of Trinidad, County of Humboldt, HSU Marine Lab, Green Diamond, etc.) were all cited and prohibited from discharging stormwater into the bay. By coordinating and cooperating with the various agencies, the City was able to take the lead and obtain grant funding solutions to address the problem.

Mike Morgan – Trinidad

Why not develop a discharge pipeline that extends beyond the ASBS boundary? Winzler & Kelly Engineer Rebecca Crow explained that it would be cost prohibitive to build a pipeline vs. dealing with the discharge before it hits the ocean.

Council comments included:

Binnie: We have received (2) emails from the Tsurai Ancestral Society requesting that the Council postpone any decision on the plan until their comments are submitted for consideration.

Lin: The Plan can evolve and adapt as new information is submitted. However, I would like to see the Plan adopted tonight in order to meet the grant deadline.

Fulkerson: The Plan is well written and very informative. I would like to see a list of action items in place that Staff can act on each year. BTW –why isn't the Grant Administrator, Becky Price-Hall here to present the final plan?

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Binnie) Approve proposed Resolution 2008-15 adopting the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Presentation of the Engineering Report for Water System Improvements.

Winzler & Kelly Engineers Carlos Diaz and Rebecca Crow prepared and presented their report under cooperative funding from the City's Water Department and the Trinidad Rancheria. The report provides options and a preferred alternative for the improvement of the City's water system.

Specifically, the report looks at three alternatives for improving the storage capacity, the main delivery system, treatment functions, and other general improvements. The report assesses the pros and cons for each of the three alternatives and analyzes the costs associated with each option. It concludes by suggesting a preferred alternative. The report will be a vital tool in soliciting grant sources for making some or all of these much-needed improvements.

The report also provides significant background information on the water system, its capacities, its customers, water requirements of those customers, and the in-place treatment system.

Public comment included:

Sungnome Madrone – Fox Farm

Madrone presented an alternate proposal, separate from those discussed in the report. He suggested that there are multiple springs 1 mile up Luffenholtz Creek Watershed that produce approximately 20 gallons per minute, and that tapping 7-10 springs could produce more than enough capacity to serve Trinidad's needs. Since the water comes from below ground, there would be a reduced need for polymer or chlorine in the treatment process. Also, with the aid of gravity, the City could install in-line hydro systems to generate the power used to pump the water up from the treatment plant to the storage tanks. He also added that what's missing in the engineering report is that the City's distribution pipeline is shot. A major amount of water is lost in the system, and none of the improvement alternatives address this problem. The City is taking way more water from the creek than necessary.

Public comment included:

Mike Morgan – Trinidad

Our water system should be more efficient, and the water quality should be incredible. I'm in favor of having the best system as possible, but also think we should give Madrone's proposal consideration.

Motion (Fulkerson/Lin) to receive and file the report, and to direct the manager to work with consultants to incorporate any comments or changes in the final report and explore the membrane filtration option as well.

Passed unanimously.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Fulkerson: Dr. Ann Lindsay would like to speak with the Council re: General Plan update.
- Fulkerson: Ian Caliendo from PG&E would like to speak to the Council re: Wave Energy.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Council meeting ended at 9:40pm.**

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor