

SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Council members in attendance: Binnie, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson, Lin, and Miller.

City Staff in attendance: City Attorney, Paul Hagen.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to move agenda item 3 to the front for early discussion. **Passed unanimously.***

Mayor Lin's Report:

Announced that Councilmember Miller will be leaving the Council June 30, and thanked him for his effort in his 6-month tenure.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1. **Jim Cuthbertson** expressed concern that weeds have not been sufficiently cut on some city properties, especially around benches and the bluffs. This could be a problem with the coming dry season and July 4th fireworks. Councilmember Binnie, Commissioner of Public Works, noted Mr. Cuthbertson's concern.

2. **Richard Johnson**, representing the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), expressed thanks for the financial support for the GTCC proposed by the Council in the 07-08 budget plans. He then suggested that planned financial support for the Humboldt County Visitors Bureau be mostly re-directed to the GTCC, as the GTCC could make more precise local use of tourism-related funds.

V. CONSENT AGENDA - None

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. (originally #3): Discussion/Decision on forming a join committee with the Trinidad Rancheria to explore a combined effort in acquiring the US Coast Guard property on Trinidad Head (Lin)

Mayor Lin provided a brief background information on the status of the US Coast Guard property on the Trinidad Head and its plan for transferring the property to another entity. The process of this transfer may eventually be carried by the National Parks Service, under its Historical Lighthouse Preservation Program. The US agency may solicit bids from interested entities for administering the property as a historical lighthouse.

Mayor Lin stated that there may be some public confusion regarding the formation of joint committee with the Trinidad Rancheria to explore a combined effort in acquiring the property because of the way he worded this agenda item. He restated that his intent is for this as an opportunity to open a discussion about transfer of the Coast Guard property to include all entities who have expressed interests in the property, and not just the Trinidad Rancheria and the City of Trinidad. Mayor Lin would like a very open and inclusive process, which includes all these entities. He said that the best proposal to the US National Park Service would be a single proposal from all these entities, rather than several competing proposals.

Public Comments:

Axel Lindgren, representing the Tsurai Ancestral Society (TAS), expressed concern that, based on the initial wording of the agenda item, there appeared to be not enough concern for the TAS, their cultural and religious values, and for a significant role for the TAS in plans for Trinidad Head.

Lori McKinnon, of the Yurok Tribe, supported Mr. Lindgren and the TAS, and added that the Yurok should be significantly involved in the transfer process.

City resident **Glenn Saunders** opined that the transfer of the property is primarily a business venture, and too many partners in business ventures can be very difficult.

Scott Quackenbush, Humboldt State professor, and Director of the HSU Marine Center, said that HSU has no interest in owning the transferred property, but that the public, and HSU students in particular, should have access to the property, and that all public access should be as "low impact" as possible.

Council comments:

Each of the Council Members spoke, with variations, of the central idea that all concerned organizations should be represented in transfer discussions, and that historical, cultural, and ancestral issues should be part of the discussions.

The original motion was reworded as: "*The Council appoints Stan Binnie and Richard Johnson to start a dialogue with representatives from the Trinidad Rancheria, the Tsurai Ancestral Society, the Yurok Tribe and the Humboldt State University to explore the process of forming a joint committee on the issue related to the 12 acre US Coast Guard property on the Trinidad Head*".

The revised motion (Miller/Fulkerson) passed 5-0.

2. Discussion/Decision to conceptually approve changing Trinidad form of government to the City Council-City Manager system (Lin).

Lin read, via projected text, the problems associated with the current city government system and outlined steps proposed in changing to a City Manager form of government. The proposed steps and possible time lines would be:

1. Approve to proceed, and budget for cost (June 2007).
2. Adopt an ordinance defining the form of government, responsibility and authority of city manager, city manager-city council relationship, etc. (July-Aug 2007).
3. Hire a city manager--recruit, interview, contract negotiation, appointment. (Sept-Oct, 2007).
4. Hire a city clerk (Nov-Dec, 2007).
5. Office renovation (Oct-Dec 2007).
6. Abolish commissionerships (Jan, 2008).

Public Comments:

Jim Cuthbertson asked if Gabe Adams, the current Trinidad City Clerk, would be affected by this proposal.

Council Member Fulkerson replied that this proposal describes a governing process, without details of specific people. Several Council Members noted that Gabe was well respected and would probably play a positive role in the anticipated changes.

Glenn Saunders noted that there may be financial difficulties, as this proposal involves increased city expenditures, and the 1% sales tax is due to expire in 2008.

Council response:

Each of the Council Members supported the concept of a City council which sets policy and a City Manager who carries it out. The current system, where Council Members both set policy and carry it out (as Commissioners), is very difficult for volunteer Council Members, and poses numerous conflicts.

Motion: *The Council approves conceptually the transformation of our city government to a "City Council-City Manager" form of government and to proceed with the process of the transformation. The Council also authorizes adding to the 07-08 budget expenses, \$30,000 to the General Fund to cover additional*

personnel cost and \$15,000 to the Government Building Fund to cover office renovation and equipment costs for the transformation. **Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) passed 5-0.**

3. Discussion/decision on directing the City Attorney to recommend a process for the adoption of the Management Plan for the Tsurai Site, and to provide the council with an opinion on the legal implications of adopting the Plan (Lin).

Lin noted that the Management Plan is complete, and the City needs the advice from its legal counsel for what potential legal issues may be involved, and what are some suggested steps to follow as the Plan is considered for adoption.

Public Comments:

Some comments were made about the content of the Management Plan, but Mayor Lin noted that this agenda item does not address specific issues of the Plan. It only requests legal advice.

Council response:

Support was given for legal advice, to be summarized at our next Council meeting.

The motion (Miller/Binnie) passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Dwight Miller
Councilmember

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor