

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Ratzlaff, Bhardwaj. **Councilmember Fulkerson was absent.**
- City Staff in attendance: City Clerk Gabriel Adams; Police Chief Ken Thrailkill; City Attorney Paul Hagen.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

1. Pursuant to Government Code, Section 54957
  - a. Real Estate Negotiations
    1. Police Facility Lease

**IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Lin reported that the City reached an agreement with the Patti Fleschner, owner of 463 Trinity. Decision will be reported during Agenda item no. 2.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Binnie) to approve the agenda as amended. **Passed 4-0.***

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**September 12, 2007 cc**

*Motion (Ratzlaff/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as amended. **Passed 3-0.** Binnie abstained.*

**September 26, 2007 cc2**

*Motion (Ratzlaff/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as written. **Passed 4-0.***

**VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Binnie - Parks and Recreation, Streets

**TPW:** Skid proof paint applied to boardwalk to prevent slippage when wet. Coast Guard housing station is currently being demolished.

**Glenn Saunders** requested that school zone lines across Main/Trinity be brightened, as well as the double yellow line at the intersection of Patrick's Point Dr. and Main.

**Town Hall:** 2 new windows and a door have been added to the south wall. A storm door will be added to prevent wind and rain from leaking through the new door. Also, a deck was built as a landing outside the door. Thanked Tom Sheen for doing such an excellent job.

Bhardwaj – Health & Human Services, Planning

**Health:** Summarized the September Planning Commission meeting results, and previewed the upcoming meeting agenda. The Lighting Task Force met and decided not to pass the draft ordinance prepared by Chairperson Carol Rowe. Instead, the Task Force members were given tasks to perform such as a) requesting input from residents through a note on the water bill, b) research solar options, and c) research shielding options that prevent street lights from sending excess light upward into the night sky.

**Planning:** Announced the upcoming Village Keeper program.

Lin – Water, Town Hall

**Town Hall:** Grace Decorating submitted the lowest bid for painting 3 sides of the Town Hall.

Fulkerson – Public Safety – Absent.

Ratzlaff – Finance – Nothing to report.

### **VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

City Clerk/IWMC – Adams: Reported that a number of budget commitments have been satisfied, including checks to 1) the Civic Club, 2) The Chamber, 3) the Museum, and 4) the Trinidad School. Met with Building Inspector to discuss procedure, application improvements, and to sign the contract. Also, the following Job Announcements were posted: City Manager, Public Works, Asst. City Clerk.

City Attorney – Hagen: Deferred to agenda item 2.

Police Chief – Thrailkill – Announced arrests, service calls, and statistics.

### **IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

**Glenn Saunders** – Trinidad

Town Hall rent schedule should be analyzed.

**John Spyropolous** – Trinidad

Thanks for providing agendas to the public as requested. The spaces on each side of the street adjacent to the crosswalk should be painted red so child visibility is improved for drivers.

### **X. CONSENT AGENDA - None**

### **XI. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discussion/Decision regarding adoption of the Tsurai Management Plan. (Lin))

Mayor Lin introduced the item, gave a brief summary of the plan, the team, and the history of plan's development. He suggested that the City look ahead and realistically consider that what will be accomplished in the near future. We will never be able to get a plan that satisfies everybody, addresses all the issues and has all the details for their implementation. We may be able to make some minor improvements to the plan, but none that would be worth delaying the whole project for. Meanwhile, the site condition continues deteriorate. By adopting the plan now and beginning to work on its implementation, we will gain experience in working together and develop trust and understanding. Developing a good working relationship will be very valuable in helping us resolve future conflicts.

Public comments included:

**Dean Heyenga** – Trinidad

The Council should ensure that both the interests of Trinidad residents and the Native Americans be considered in order to proceed in a fair and balanced way.

**Ned Simmons** - Trinidad

Excited about the recognition the site has (and will continue to) receive as a result of this process. Hope to see a brush dance take place on site in the future.

*Motion (Binnie/Ratzlaff) to adopt the Tsurai Management Plan. **Passed 4-0.***

2. Discussion/Decision regarding the following reports from the City Attorney:

a. Legal implications of purchase of property adjacent to City Hall.

While the Council did not vote to pursue the purchase of the adjacent building to City Hall, in the interest of full study of all current options, the Council asked the City Attorney to inform the Council about the feasibility of such a purchase. City Attorney Hagen explained that a partnership could be developed between the City and a private party, but clear agreement and list of goals of each party must be defined.

- b. Determination whether Planning Commission can/cannot vote on the use permit.  
City Attorney Hagen explained that he was satisfied there was no conflict of interest for Commissioners Kenny, Morgan, & Johnson.
- c. Discussion/Decision regarding draft lease and permit process for new police facility at 463 Trinity.  
Mayor Lin reported that the Council, in closed session, approved the draft lease agreement pending the Planning Commissions approval of the use permit. **Passed 4-0.**

Public comments:

**Jim Cuthbertson** – Trinidad

The City will be required to bring the bathroom up to ADA standards.

3. Discussion/Decision regarding incorporating an exterior public restroom into the new library's design.  
(Ratzlaff/Resident)

Councilmember Ratzlaff deferred to City resident and Library Fundraising Coordinator Dean Heyenga for an explanation of the proposal. Heyenga explained that fundraising plans for the new library are progressing and a conceptual design of the new library will be completed before fundraising begins. The decision before the Council is whether to include the restroom and possible storage/utility areas in the conceptual design. As proposed, the restroom would not have access to the library's interior but would share plumbing with the library's interior restroom.

Heyenga explained that one factor the Council needs to be aware of is that a majority of the Library Committee opposes adding an exterior restroom to the library's design. Including the restroom, with or without the additional storage/utility space, is thousands of dollars cheaper if it is included in the original plans instead of being added later. The issue, then, is who should have the final say in the community's library design.

How would the additions be paid for? Heyenga explained that one way would be to simply include the additional construction in the overall cost of the project and raise the money as part of the public fundraising campaign. An alternative would be to apply for grant funds to supplement public fundraising. As fundraising chairman for the new library Heyenga would be responsible for submitting grants, with advice and consent from the Council.

The Library Committee's charge is to get a library built. Once a library is built the Committee will disband. The City, however, will not only maintain the park but will maintain the library as long as it is there. Over the years the City will spend thousands of public dollars supporting these public spaces for residents and visitors. Since the park and library will serve the greater Trinidad community and City Councils will maintain them for the public, it seems reasonable that the City Council determine what facilities will best serve our community. Community donors will support the idea of saving money to provide necessary public facilities in the most cost efficient way. Heyenga urged the Council to include the restroom and utility areas in the library's design.

Public comments:

**Don Blue** – Trinidad (Co-Chair of the Library Committee)

Provided a thorough history of the Trinidad library – past and present – and summarized the mission of the current library committee. Blue stated the following information:

- In all the joint meetings of the Library, Museum, and City, it was understood that the septic system would be designed for users of the library, NOT as a system for a public restroom.
- The bathroom, as proposed by Mr. Heyenga, was rejected by the Library committee.
- Mr. Heyenga's proposal is independent of the rest of the Library committee.
- Mr. Heyenga's proposal will burden the city with excess security and maintenance problems.

**Roland Johnson** – N. Trinidad (Co-Chair of the Library Committee)

The septic system was designed and installed for minimal use. The foundation of the building will be designed to accommodate the heavy floor load, and there are engineering issues with connecting separate foundations that must be addressed. The Library Committee is also concerned with vandalism and safety issues that may result from hosting a public restroom. Urged the Council not to make a decision without having proper data to review.

**Patti Fleschner** – S. Trinidad (Museum Committee)

Mr. Heyenga's proposal is not a surprise. The joint meetings were productive, and everyone engaged in the bathroom discussion. We all should be thinking about cooperative design concepts.

**Cindy Lindgren** – Trinidad

Suggested looking into temporary, mobile restroom solutions that can be maintained by the company providing the service.

**Mike Morgan** – Trinidad

Suggested looking into Willow Creek's model. They have a bathroom, visitor kiosk, and museum complex similar to Trinidad's plan.

Council comments:

**Bhardwaj:** Did research to add to the discussion. Contacted the City Planner who suggested that if a public restroom would not be available, the City should inform the public where they could find one. Also contacted the County Health Department and Public Works and obtained information about bathroom maintenance, management, and design considerations. Wants to avoid putting obstacles in the way of the Library development, and therefore cannot support the proposal at this time.

**Mayor Lin:** A public restroom can be a public nuisance if not managed properly.

**Binnie:** Too many unanswered questions. Unable to vote on the issue at this time.

**Ratzlaff:** The City should provide a public restroom so that the neighboring business, library, and museum aren't impacted.

**By consensus the Council agreed to close the discussion.**

4. Discussion/Decision regarding repairing the east wall of Town Hall. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that the Town Hall is undergoing a major renovation. It was previously decided that the exterior of the wall will be repainted. However, the exterior of the east wall is in very bad condition. The siding has rotted and needs to be replaced. The estimated cost of the repair will be around \$10,000 to \$15,000. The exact amount will be unknown until bids are received. The renovation project should be funded by the Government Building Fund, which has an approximate balance of \$30,000.

Authorization is needed from the Council before we can proceed to hire a contractor for this job.

**Binnie:** We don't have a choice. It needs to be done.

*Motion(Lin/Bhardwaj) to approve spending Government Building funds to repair the east wall of Town Hall.*  
**Passed 4-0.**

**XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Council meeting ended at 9:50pm.

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

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**Chi-Wei Lin**  
Mayor