

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – No Closed Session.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Lin/Bhardwaj) to approve the agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 10, 2007 cc

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

October 24, 2007 cc2

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

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie - Parks and Recreation, Streets

TPW: Interviews are being held with applicants to fill the full-time position. 18 applications were received, 4 interviews will be held.

TPW partnered with the Trinidad Rancheria maintenance crew to remove hazardous branches along Scenic Drive, and to re-stripe the divider lines on Patrick's Point Drive from Chevron north to the city limit line. Thanked the Rancheria for their assistance.

Bhardwaj – Health & Human Services, Planning

Health: Announced the upcoming Village Keeper program.

Planning: The Planning Commission approved the Pier Reconstruction Project, but struggled with a View Street resident's request to remove 3 mature trees from her property. The P.C. asked that the resident obtain an evaluation from an arborist regarding the health of the trees and the risk they may pose to nearby structures. The issue was continued to the next meeting.

Lin – Water, Town Hall

Town Hall: The city received 18 applications for assistant city clerk. 7 applicants were interviewed, and the hiring committee has narrowed it down to 3.

Fulkerson – Public Safety

Thanked volunteers Jim Cuthbertson and Tom Odom for their help working on the new Police Facility.

Ratzlaff – Finance – Nothing to report.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk/IWMC – Adams: Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Hagen: Nothing to report.

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.)

Cindy Lindgren – Tsurai Ancestral Society Representative

Approximately 6-months ago, the TAS informed the Council of a drainage issue at the foot of the bluff below the Village Site near Parker Creek. No action has been taken. We urge the Council to hold a special meeting within the next few days and declare this situation an emergency so that the process can move forward quickly.

The Council discussed whether or not this situation would qualify as an emergency, and agreed that it was eminent and deserved immediate attention. The City Planner suggested consulting with the City Engineer, and noted that an emergency permit would allow construction to take place and permits to be obtained retroactively.

The Council agreed to the following:

1. City Planner shall issue an emergency permit.
2. Contract shall be signed with the selected contractor.
3. City shall determine whether it can afford the expense, and agree to the funding source.

Patti Fleschner – Trinidad

Museum construction should be finished by early summer, 2008. Reminded the Council that completion of the project is dependent upon completion of the road and subsequent infrastructure improvements that are responsibilities of the City.

Victoria Rosen – Trinidad

Asked the Council to resurrect the lighting task force, and stated that the October water billing notification soliciting comments regarding street light complaints was inadequate.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation 2007-05; Designating November as National Hospice Month.
2. Proclamation 2007-06; In recognition and support of the Great American Smokeout, November 15, 2007.

*Motion (Ratzlaff/Bhardwaj) to approve the Consent Agenda. **Passed unanimously.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision regarding subleasing a portion of the city facility at 463-A Trinity Street to the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that the City has recently leased the property at 463-A Trinity Street to house the Police Department and the City Manager's Office. There is extra space available for sublease in the property and the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce is expressing an interest in leasing part of the facility.

The Council should decide whether to sublease portion of the property to the GTCC, and if so, should appoint a negotiator to negotiate a sublease agreement with the GTCC. A draft sublease agreement has been prepared by the City Attorney to provide the basis for the negotiation.

Public comments:

Richard Johnson – GTCC President

The new site is an exciting opportunity, and is consistent with the long-term vision of the Chamber.

*Motion (Lin/Ratzlaff) to sublease a portion of the 463-A Trinity Street property to the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (GTCC). **Passed unanimously.***

*Motion (Lin/Bhardwaj) to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the lease with the GTCC. **Passed unanimously.***

2. Discussion/Decision regarding the Council's comments on the draft On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Ordinance. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that at the last Council meeting (10/24/07) the Council decided that the process of reviewing the OWTS draft ordinance would be for each member to review the draft ordinance individually and submit a list of comments to the Council. The comments will be discussed in public and then forwarded to the City Planner.

Mayor Lin summarized his comments, and emphasized the following points:

- The Health Officer and Program Administrator should be more clearly defined.
- The City Clerk could take on the role as Administrator, funded by program fees.
- Enforcement is critical to the success of the program.
- A separate OWTS fund should be set up to manage the revenue, generated by program fees.

City Planner Trever Parker answered various questions from the Council.

Public comments:

Cindy Lindgren

How will this system affect the Trinidad School? Will the program have a mechanism that will ensure that new homeowners are aware of it, or be required to have their system inspected at the time of purchase, or when a building permit is applied for?

Parker replied, stating that the first inspections will be thorough and take the most time, but subsequent performance inspections will take less.

Mike Sebring – Trinidad

Will the OWTS program address water use, or conservation, as well as water quality?

Parker replied, stating the program emphasis is water "quality", but septic monitoring may include water use data that could be used to compare use with capacity.

Council comments were submitted and included in the meeting packet.

Motion (Lin/Bhardwaj) to forward Councilmember comments to the City Planner to include in a revised draft of the OWTS Ordinance. Revised ordinance will be brought back to the Council for review at a future meeting.

Passed unanimously.

2. Discussion/Decision regarding draft renovation budget for new police facility. (Police Chief)

Police Chief Thrailkill presented the new draft budget to the Council and highlighted a few significant expenditures. He also asked that the Council consider funding the installation of a backup generator system and a phone system. Thrailkill explained that the existing systems were paid for by previous COPS grants.

Motion (Lin/Ratzlaff) to approve the proposed building improvement budget from Indian Gaming Funds and authorize an additional \$8,800 to be spent from the General Fund to pay for the standby generator and phone system installation. Passed unanimously.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Council meeting ended at 9:20pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor