

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2010**

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

- Mayor Binnie called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Ratzlaff, Binnie, Fulkerson. Bhardwaj – *Absent*.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Attorney Paul Hagen.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION** – *Closed session scheduled following the discussion agenda.*  
Conference with legal counsel – Anticipated litigation  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9.b.3(c).

- IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION** – *There was no action to report.*

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion (Fulkerson/Ratzlaff) to approve the consent agenda. Passed 4-0.*

- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – *There were no minutes to approve.*

- VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS** – *There were no reports.*

- VIII. STAFF REPORTS** – *There were no staff reports.*

- IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR** – *There were no items from the floor.*  
*(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)*

- X. CONSENT AGENDA** – *There were no consent items.*

**XI. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Proposed Resolution 200-01 Approving Collaborative Submittal to the EECBG Program

City Manager Albright explained that in August 2009, the City Council approved Resolution 2009-13 authorizing the submittal of an application for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds under the American Resource and Recovery Act program.

Since that original Resolution was passed, significant work has been accomplished toward the submittal of a regional application for these Block Grant Funds. A consortium has been formed, led by the Redwood Coast Energy Authority and Humboldt County, to package the multiple applications and provide technical assistance and administrative support to the individual applicants. For Trinidad, the cost of this service \$1000 will be deducted from the grant, meaning that the City will now receive \$24,000 toward an approved project. Trinidad's project has been refined and is now divided into three parts: Town Hall insulation; an energy-efficient heating system for Town Hall; and a Town Hall ventilation system. All of this can be accomplished for the grant of \$24,000.

Council comment included:

**Fulkerson:** Suggested that the most environmentally friendly options be considered regarding insulation. All Council members agreed.

Public comment included:

**Jim Cuthbertson** – Trinidad

The Town Hall is worth the investment. Any wall that's not insulated should be investigated and considered for improvement.

**Dean Heyenga** – Trinidad

Any disruption of Town Hall activities and City Hall operations should be forecasted and planned for carefully.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Morgan) to approve Resolution 2010-01 and proceed with the grant. Passed 4-0.*

2. Appointment of an Advisory Committee to Consider Regulations on Vacation Dwelling Units  
City Manager Albright explained that at the last City Council meeting, the Council selected a Citizens Advisory Committee to study and make recommendations to the City Council on possible regulation regarding Vacation Dwelling Units. It was stressed at the meeting that any recommendations made by the Advisory Committee are advisory only. The Committee's recommendations may be accepted, denied, or modified by the City Council.

In line with specific categories pre-determined by a sub-committee of 2 council members, the following individuals were selected for the committee:

**Jennifer Fraser, Pat Morales, Tom Davies, Casey Van Alten, Dennis Halkides, Gail Saunders, Jackie Keegan, Kathy Bhardwaj,** and one undetermined vacancy.

Since that meeting, **Casey Van Alten** and **Dennis Halkides** had opted not to participate. **Kathy Bhardwaj** has also opted not to participate and as a result, their positions must be filled. The Council decided to have the City Clerk solicit volunteers for the Committee at the December meeting. The following persons have stated their interest by the deadline of December 21:

**Jenni Dodd, Dean Heyenga, Mike Reinman, Barbara Snell, and Mary Wilbur.** One additional letter of interest was received after the deadline from resident **John Frame**.

Council comment included:

**Ratzlaff:** Regarding the late application, the Council should stick to the deadline and not accept it. Mayor Binnie agreed.

**Morgan:** I disagree that the late application should not be considered. The City should encourage participation in City government by accepting any and all letters regardless of deadlines in this case.

**Fulkerson:** A city official accepted Frame's letter. Unfortunately, the action of this official has committed the Council to consider the application. As a result, I feel that all applicants should be appointed except for Mike Reinman. He should be excluded because he owns property that has been in violation of the building & planning code for a number of months and the Council should not support non-compliant participants. Furthermore, messy or not, I hope that the committee provides a variety of recommendations to the Council.

**City Clerk Adams** admitted to accepting John Frame's application after the deadline, but assure the Council that it was made clear to the applicant that the deadline had passed. He also stated that it was not within his authority to block written correspondence from anyone trying to communicate with the Council or any public official for that matter. The authority to accept or reject applications for any position or committee lies solely upon the City Council.

Public comment included:

**Jim Cuthbertson** – Trinidad

A deadline was set, and the Council should stick to it.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Morgan) to appoint the following individuals to the existing list of committee members:*

- Jenni Dodd                      Mary Wilbur                      Barbara Snell = Alternate
- Dean Heyenga                      Mike Reinman

**Motion passed 4-0.**

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

**Kim Tays** would like to discuss the website, **Jim Cuthbertson** would like to discuss Edwards Street Safety and Intersection lighting, and **Pat Morales** suggested an item to discuss limiting the public's interaction with the City Manager and City Clerk.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Discussion items ended at 2:00pm and the Council adjourned to closed to Closed Session.

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

**Stan Binnie**  
Mayor

DRAFT