

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Binnie called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Council members in attendance: Ratzlaff, Binnie, Fulkerson. ***Morgan and Bhardwaj were Absent.***
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright and City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION - *There was no closed session.*

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Fulkerson/Ratzlaff) to approve the agenda as written. Passed 3-0.

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

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

VIII. STAFF REPORTS – *There were no Staff reports.*

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

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

Pat Morales – Trinidad

Requested follow-up on Reinman and Morgan complaints.

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

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report on the Status of Law Enforcement Functions in Trinidad.

City Manager Albright explained that the Trinidad Police Chief's resignation was effective April 23. Since then he has developed and researched options for Police services available to the City:

Short Term Options:

- a) Police protection on emergency basis for emergency calls only.
- b) Short-term contract with Sheriff for specified services.
- c) Retain a qualified, locally available, interim chief – *cost undetermined.*
- d) Retain interim chief through State Police Chief's Association – *cost undetermined.*

Current Available Budget = \$266,115

- a) General Fund Police = \$153,887
- b) COPS Grant = \$100,000
- c) Indian Gaming Grant = \$12,228

Blue Lake Contract = \$205,432

- a) 2 dedicated officers
- b) 70 hours/week patrol
- c) All support equipment
- d) All support staff

Public comment included:

Tom Odom – Trinidad

Supports contract with Sheriff.

Jody Poulcott – Trinidad Area Resident

Moved to Trinidad in 1969. Watched Sheriff / Trinidad Police bounce back and forth. I'm in favor of a local police department. Regardless of who is policing Trinidad, the City can face litigation. The Sheriff is currently understaffed and facing budget cuts. Not confident that they can fill the role. Trinidad is unique and takes finesse to police. Don't rush to judgment. Consider keeping the department going.

Brent Twoomey – Trinidad

I've been here for over 30 years and seen many police departments come and go. The truth is that there is very little activity in town. Trinidad PD was a joke. The town is empty. We should be careful what we decide. The Sheriff seems to be a good option, but hide the cop cars so we don't give off a vibe that we're a crime-ridden town. Don't saddle Trinidad with another problem.

Pat Morales – Trinidad

Would like to see at least 70 hours of coverage.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: I've had only one complaint brought to my attention. I feel that for the short-term, the Sheriff meets our needs. However, they should feel like our officers.

Motion (Ratzlaff/Fulkerson) to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to proceed developing a preliminary short-term contract (month-to-month preferred) with the County Sheriff Department to be considered at the May 12th meeting. Passed 3-0.

2. Discussion of the draft Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Elements of the General Plan.

City Planner Trevor Parker introduced the elements, highlights of the plan, chapters, process, figures, and related policies. **City Manager Albright** noted that Councilmember Morgan submitted comments/edits in writing.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: Argued that not everyone should be able to re-write the plan. Any changes should be discussed and agreed upon.

Binnie: Read through his notes and suggested various changes and edits throughout the document.

No decision was made.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 5:00pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Stan Binnie
Mayor