

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Binnie called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Ratzlaff, Binnie, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Attorney Paul Hagen, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION (immediately following open session)

Liability Claims for Damages, etc. against the City of Trinidad, Government Code section 54956.9(b) and/or section 54956.95, submitted by the following individuals:

Tsurai Ancestral Society, Axel Lindgren III, Kelly Jean Lindgren, Christine Williams, Kris K.C. Lindgren, Tanna Lindgren-Tripp, Sarah Lindgren-Akana, George E. Nelson, Patricia Bailey, Gary Nelson, Parris Lindgren, Chet Jarboe.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Move Agenda item #4 to Discussion agenda (last)
- Move Agenda item #5 to Discussion #7.

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2010 cc

Motion (Ratzlaff/Fulkerson) to approve all the minutes as amended. Passed 4-0.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie:

- Thanked volunteers and emergency services for assisting with structure fire on Trinity Street.
- **HCAOG**: Announced that Marcella Clem has been appointed Director of HCAOG. Mayor City Selection committee will be discussing Coastal Commission nominations at next meeting.

Bhardwaj: Still seeking applications for Planning Commission through December 31. Streetlights need repair/maintenance. A comprehensive list of non-functioning lights must be prepared and sent to PGE with request for service.

Morgan: Thanked volunteers and coordination efforts by mutual aid emergency services for assistance with structure fire on Trinity Street last week.

Fulkerson: HTA Director recruitment process is underway. Thanked Ratzlaff & Binnie for serving on Council.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager - Albright: Summarized staff activities report and highlighted various other accomplishments. Also noted status on the following grant projects: ARRA, Saunders Park, Van Wycke Trail, and Library.

IX. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Clerk Gabriel Adams read the oath of office with new members Tom Davies and Dwight Miller.

The Council took a 10 minute break for refreshments.

X. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

John Spyropoulos – Trinidad Resident

Tried to attend the Library Bling for Books Fundraiser at the Town Hall in November. Came early but was told he was not welcome. Also told he would be arrested if he didn't leave. Asked for an explanation from the Library as to why he wasn't welcome.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through November, 2010
2. Financial Status Reports for October 2010
3. Proposed Resolution 2010-16 Approving an Application for Prop 50 Funding.

*Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve Consent items 1-3. **Passed unanimously.***

4. Letters of concern for Offshore Naval Warfare Training Exercises.

On November 9, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gave the US Navy permission to "take" more than 600,000 marine mammals over the next five years in the expanded Northwest Training Range Complex. The NWTRC extends from the border of Canada to Mendocino County. It is 60 miles off shore for ships, just 13 miles for planes, and includes critical whale migration routes. Naval exercises will include testing of new weaponry and ammunition (habitat and marine life disruption, destruction, and pollution with toxic chemicals, heavy metals, depleted uranium, etc.), deployment of sonar (which has killed hundreds of marine mammals in numerous incidents worldwide), and ship-based flight training (which has already sent panicked livestock off of cliffs on the Oregon coast and through fences in the Hwy 36 valley).

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) has taken on organizing a grassroots campaign to call for Congressional hearings and a halt to war games in our coastal waters. To make this happen, Congress needs to hear from thousands of citizens. Cities have been requested to join by voicing their concerns regarding these exercises.

Humboldt, Marin, and Mendocino County Boards of Supervisors, Mike Thompson, Diane Feinstein, and Barbara Boxer have all formally voiced their objections, to no avail. We need our City Councils to join in demanding extension of the public comment period, and, if necessary, Congressional hearings.

Public comment included:

Erin Quinlan – Trinidad Area Resident, **Marie Garibedum** – Trinidad, **Don Allan** – Trinidad Area, **Pat Morales** – Trinidad, and **Brad Twoomey** – Trinidad, and **Kim Tays** – Trinidad.

Encouraged the City Council to write to State, Congress, and Senate and take a firm stand against training in coastal waters of North Coast.

Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to:

- 1) *send a letter of concern to representatives Boxer, Feinstein, and Thompson requesting congressional hearings on the west coast. **Passed 5-0.***
- 2) *Send a letter to Governor requesting an injunction on NOAA permit and letter of opposition by Thursday.*
- 3) *Appoint Fulkerson & Davies to attend hearing in Eureka next week and read letters as statements on behalf of the Trinidad City Council. **Passed unanimously.***

5. Letter of Support for a North Coast Appointment to the California Coastal Commission.

Apparently Governor Schwarzenegger is prepared to make several appointments to State Boards and Commissions prior to leaving office, including an appointment to replace outgoing Supervisor and California Coastal Commission member Bonnie Neely.

Supervisor Mark Lovelace has requested the City of Trinidad's support to be appointed to that position. Traditionally cities and Humboldt County have had a City-County Selection Committee through HCAOG to recommend state appointments to the Governor. At the time of the preparation of the packet, there were plans to convene this selection meeting well prior to the Governor's stated selection time frame of late December.

It is unknown if other possible appointees will come forward to compete for this position. If this were to occur, the City Council may wish to consider which person to support as the new Governor's selection for the California Coastal Commission.

Council comments included:

Morgan: Without knowing who else is applying, I don't feel comfortable taking a vote.

Miller, Fulkerson: Support Lovelace.

Public comment included:

Stan Binne: Mayor City Selection committee meets on December 16. Committee may hear other applicants. Deadline to submit applications is December 10. Support Mark Lovelace.

Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to endorse Mark Lovelace nomination to Coastal Commission and forward support letter to Governor. **Motion Passed by the following vote: 3 Yes – Miller, Davies, Fulkerson. 2 No – Bhardwaj, Morgan.**

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Resolution 2010-17 Recognizing the Contributions of Mayor Stan Binnie
Mayor Pro-Tem Bhardwaj read the Resolution.

Public comment included:

Pat Morales – Trinidad, **Kim Tays** – Trinidad, **Richard Johnson** – Trinidad, **Tom Odom** – Trinidad, and **Sungnome Madrone** – Trinidad Area Resident: Thanked Binnie for dedication and years of hard work.

Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve Resolution 2010-17. Passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 2010-18 recognizing the Contributions of Councilmember Don Ratzlaff.
Mayor Pro-Tem Bhardwaj read the Resolution. Council and public thanked Ratzlaff for significant contributions and dedication of public service.

Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to approve Resolution 2010-18. Passed unanimously.

3. Process for Annual or Bi-Annual Selection of the Mayor and Vice Mayor
City Manager Albright explained that in recent years, the City Council has been selecting its Mayor and Vice Mayor from the five City Council members every two years following a November election. This practice was put in place by Ordinance by the City Council in 1997. The Ordinance also allows for the removal of a Mayor or Vice Mayor if the majority of the Council chooses to do so.

Some cities, and also Humboldt County, have selected a process whereby the position of Mayor or Board Chairman automatically rotates amongst its members on an annual basis. This spreads the responsibility and also gives each member the opportunity to hold the position.

If the Council desires to change the current process, then it would require a change to the current Ordinance.

Council comments included:

Miller: The current system seems to work. Sharing the responsibility or opportunity is good, but not all of us want or have the time to fulfill the duties.

Fulkerson: I'm satisfied with the current system. Some of us may be more cut-out for the job. A 2-year term is appropriate. **Davies** agreed.

Morgan: The system is not broken, but can be improved. We should have a rotating schedule structure that will introduce more flexibility. I support the change.

Bhardwaj: I value continuity, and believe the current system is fine as-is.

Motion (Miller/Fulkerson) to continue with the current system. Passed 4-1 (No-Morgan).

4. Election of Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tem
Motion (Fulkerson/Morgan) to appoint Bhardwaj as Mayor. Passed unanimously.
Motion (Morgan/Miller) to appoint Fulkerson as Mayor Pro-Tem. Passed unanimously.
5. Process to Appoint Councilmembers to Various Boards and Commissions.

City Manager Albright explained that members of Trinidad's City Council represent the City on various committees, boards and commissions. In addition, the Council appoints citizen members to the Planning Commission and periodically to other committees.

The City's records indicate that there have been different ways that the appointments to boards, commissions, and committees have been made. In some instances, the Mayor has simply made an appointment, sometimes with the concurrence of the Council members. In some instances, Council members have volunteered for assignments. At other times, the Council has agreed as a group after discussion.

It would seem appropriate for the Council to concur (by majority) on all appointments and assigned responsibilities. It would also seem reasonable for the Mayor, as the Council's elected leader, to take the lead role either in soliciting persons from the community and/or recommending individuals for the appointments.

This is a process that needs to be decided by the Council, and then the Council can use its chosen process to fill the many positions that require attention.

Council comment included:

Fulkerson: Each member should make first, second, and third choices and return at the next meeting their selections. HWMA & County Visioning Committee should be added to the list.

City Manager Albright was directed to chart out the committees, time expectations, and meeting dates and provide the info to the Council in advance of selections.

No decision was made. Discussion continued to a future meeting.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 4:30pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Meeting ended at 9:35pm.**

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Kathy Bhardwaj
Mayor