

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Bhardwaj called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Miller Davies, Fulkerson. **Mayor Bhardwaj – Absent.**
- City Staff in attendance: City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Manager Karen Suiker, City Engineer Josh Wolf.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Government Code section 54956.9(b)(3): Pending Litigation
2. Government Code section 54956.95: Liability Claims for Damages, etc. against the City of Trinidad, submitted by the following individuals:
 - o 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

No action taken in closed session.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Move Consent item 3 to regular agenda item 1.
Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the agenda as amended. Passed 4-0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 13, 2011 CC.

Motion (Morgan/Davies) to approve minutes as submitted. Passed 4.0

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Morgan: Support Humboldt Pride. Proclamation arrived too late to make the agenda. Advised Pride organizers to submit Proclamation early next year for Council consideration. Baton Rouge benefit event at Crabs baseball field was success.

Fulkerson: HTA is prepared to hire an interim director for a 6 month period.

Miller: Attended the Trinidad Gateway BLM meeting.

Davies: Nothing to report.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Karen Suiker – City Manager

- Summarized staff report included in the Council meeting packet. Announced the special Council meeting on September 28 to discuss draft water rate proposal.

Gabriel Adams – City Clerk

- Announced that the annual waste diversion report to Cal-Recycle has been submitted and the City has reported a diversion rate in the 60% range. This rate meets the state mandate and the City is once again in good standing from a waste diversion perspective.

Bryan Buckman – Water Treatment Plant / Public Works Director

- The Van Wycke Trail is still passable. TPW Maintenance Workers Troy and Ryan have met their certification requirements to operate the treatment plant.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Shirley Laos – Trinidad Rancheria VP

Recent article in Sunset Magazine features the Trinidad Pier and Seascape Restaurant as a scenic destination. Also announced that the Rancheria has been offered 4 mobile hospital packs and the equipment received will be shared with neighboring emergency service agencies.

Sungnome Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident

Thanked the City for partnering with Green Diamond on the Watershed Coordinator grant.

Dawne Davis – Trinidad Chamber of Commerce President

Announced developments in I-5 corridor advertisement project, discussing options for Discover Trinidad signs on 101, and encouraged the public to attend the Taste of Trinidad on Tuesday, September 30 at Patrick's Point State Park.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through August 2011
2. Financial Status Reports for July 2011
3. Proclamation 2011-04; North Coast Stand Down
4. Donation for Trinidad Head Trail Maintenance
5. City Checking Account Transition
6. PG&E Contract for Relocation of Streetlight

Motion (Morgan/Miller) to approve the consent agenda as amended.

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation of Quality Community Design Awards
Mayor Pro-Tem Fulkerson presented photo slides of the properties in Trinidad that won "best of" categories as outlined by the committee charged with nominating individuals for exemplary designs. The properties and categories listed were presented with award certificates:
 - Outstanding Landscaping: WindanSea
 - Outstanding Residential Landscaping: Caroline Malaugh, Carla Powell
 - Best Exterior Remodel: John Davis, Cottage Construction
 - Outstanding Second Unit: Kathy Bhardwaj, Alice Foster
 - Outstanding Commercial Signage: Trinidad Trading Co.
 - Outstanding Energy Efficient Remodel: Stan & Kim Binnie
 - Outstanding Vacation Rental: Crow's Nest
 - Best Coastal Landscaping: Trinidad Museum

Fulkerson thanked committee members Richard Johnson, Susan Ayers, Jason Richie, Patti Fleschner, Ben Hawkins, Ned Simmons.

2. Discussion/Decision regarding Signing at Trinity & Edwards
City Manager Karen Suiker explained that at last month's meeting, the Council discussed Traffic Engineer Frank Penry's 7/24/2011 Technical Memo regarding improved visibility markings and signage at Trinity and Edwards Streets and requested additional information. The additional information requested and the response from the Traffic Engineer included:
 - **Consider a single stop sign addition on Edwards (as opposed to an all way stop sign):** A single stop sign on Edwards is not appropriate nor recommended. If any new stop controls are added to the intersection, they should be added to both Edwards and Trinity Street to form an all-way stop intersection as described in the 7/24/2011 memo.
 - **Identify the minimum type and size end of roadway marker(s) so as not to obstruct viewshed, but still provide for appropriate end of roadway alert.** Three (3) Chevron Alignment Signs (W 1-8R – 18" x 24" each, for a total size of 54" x 24" width x height). The pavement striping (centerline and crosswalk)

identified in the 7/24/2011 memo should also be installed with the signs for increased visibility/safety (the signs by themselves are not enough).

- **Advise what it would cost to study the feasibility of a roundabout at that location.** The very nature of a roundabout is to have a “terminating vista”, or block the view of proceeding straight. Additionally because of the “newness” of roundabouts in general, they have exhaustive signage and striping recommendations. I’m not sure a roundabout is appropriate for this location but we could prepare a brief study to determine if a roundabout would physically fit in the available right of way (or if additional R/W is needed) and meet the current FHWA design guidelines for approximately \$3,500.

City Manager Suiker noted that should the Council wish to continue the discussion/consideration of a roundabout at this or any other location, it is recommended this be referred to the budget process to consider the expense in concert with other street/road improvement priorities.

City Engineer Josh Wolf noted that the Traffic Engineer's 7/24/2011 Technical Memo offers two possible alternative recommendations for improved visibility markings at that intersection, one of which is to consider all-way stop control controls in concert with a number of improvements (see section 3.2 of Technical Memo). With the recommendation of all-way stop control, further engineering study is recommended “given the regulatory setting and potential risk claims issue with the installation of official traffic control devices.”

The alternative recommendation (see section 3.1 of Technical Memo) retains the existing side-street stop control and increases visibility of roadway markings and signage as follows:

- The existing marked crosswalks would be improved with white wide longitudinal strips (“ladder” style crosswalk).
- The existing centerline would be replaced with double yellow thermoplastic centerline with reflective markers.
- The existing red object marker would be replaced with one direction large arrow sign (48”x 24”)and yellow object marker (18”x 18”), or, alternately, three (3) Chevron Alignment Signs (18” x 24” each).

Break for 40 minutes due to 911 emergency call that set off fire department siren. TVFD members Davies and Morgan returned at 8:15 and meeting continued.

Public comment included:

Stan Binnie – Trinidad

Visitors and residents who approach the lighthouse want to experience the scenic view. Any signs considered for that location should meet legal requirements but be as minimal as possible to reduce view obstruction.

Kim Binnie – Trinidad

The removal of the light pole was a huge success for the viewshed a few months ago. Why would the city consider adding more clutter to that location? A two-directional arrow would be more appropriate so motorists wouldn’t be confused thinking that they aren’t allowed to turn left. A single arrow sign directing traffic to the Harbor only would be misleading. A small group of residents are working tirelessly to protect the scenic views throughout town. We suggest allowing us time to do mock-ups of possible options and review the long-term impacts of installing unnecessarily large, ugly signage.

Jason Richie – Trinidad Bay B&B manager

I support a right arrow sign. People turning left at the lighthouse often cut the corner and speed by the B&B. It is unsafe. Council should consider making upper Edwards a one-way street.

Council comment included:

Morgan: The safest alternative is my priority.

Miller: The arrow pointing toward the Harbor would only suggest a recommendation to the motorists, not a requirement. I support meeting traffic codes, but as minimally as possible.

Davies: Any signs installed should be as low as possible. Triple Chevron sign option is preferred. Parking on the North side of Edwards Street compromises the safety of oncoming traffic as well as pedestrians. I support installing the signs. They can always be removed.

Fulkerson: I don't care for the Chevron sign option, and I don't like the arrow either. We should wait for a mock-up as suggested by Kim Binnie. We should also define "dead-end" road before we conclude that the location in questions is one. That may change the technical requirements. There's got to be a better, more appropriate solution for this area.

Motion 1 (Morgan/Miller) to immediately purchase & install the chevron sign option and investigate other alternative signage options. Motion passed 3-1. No – Fulkerson.

City Manager Suiker further explained that improvements suggested to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection include adding stopsigns, painting crosswalks, or do nothing. The improvements are recommended risk management solutions.

Motion 2 (Morgan/Miller) to install 2 stop signs and install thermoplastic double yellow lines and crosswalks. Motion failed by the following vote: 1 yes – Morgan. 3 No – Miller, Fulkerson, Davies.

3. Discussion/Decision regarding Prioritization of Proposition 1B Projects

City Manager Suiker explained that the City received \$400,000 in proposition 1B funds in 2008 as part of a state-wide bond issue that provided funding for a variety of transportation-related projects. The allocation that was previously approved by the Council and the expenditures as of the end of the last fiscal year in each of the categories follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Approved Allocation</u>	<u>Expenditures to 6.30.2011</u>
Maintenance, pavement repairs various locations, signage, ADA, street light relocation, Van Wycke Trail	\$184,700	\$50,242
Construction of Janis Court	\$100,000	\$100,744
Gateway Project Match, Augment HR3, Utilities	\$114,300	\$39,850
Total	\$400,000	\$190,836

Suiker also explained that there is a June 30, 2012 spending deadline to complete all projects, and the city currently has a remaining balance of \$209,164 from this funding source. A field review was recently conducted by Public Works Director Bryan Buckman and City Engineer Steve Allen to develop maintenance priorities and associated costs, and Council approval is sought to authorize staff to proceed accordingly. Possible projects and the recommended priority for use of these funds is as follows:

- Backfill loss of ARRA funding \$ 46,000
- Street light relocation \$ 10,000
- Local Match for Gateway construction \$ 33,775
- Grinding and Overlay on Main Street \$164,066

Total \$ 253,841

This total exceeds the amount of remaining proposition 1B funds by about \$45,000. The project funding can be supplemented by some \$14,500 in Indian Gaming funds allocated for road/street repairs as well as approximately \$20,000 in Transportation Development Act funds that must be used for road/street related purposes. That still leaves a projected shortfall, and the Main Street grind and overlay will be reduced in scope to balance to available funds.

Other possible projects in priority order include:

- Upper Edwards Street overlay 25,600
- Stagecoach Road overlay 26,180
- Scenic Drive grind & patch 6,720
- West Street overlay 7,168
- Ditch @ Frontage road, cleaning/new 6,000
- Pacific/Azalea project design 55,000
- Van Wycke Trail Repairs 120,000

Should unanticipated delays hamper the ability to complete a specific project within the expenditure deadline, we will proceed to work our way down the list to assure maximum use of available funds. Development of this priority listing will not only provide for direction to expend proposition 1B funds, but will be helpful in the event other funding sources become available in the future.

Council comments included:

Davies and **Miller** both expressed support for the Van Wycke Trail repair option.

Public comment included:

Sungnome Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident

Is Edwards Street overlay really necessary? I have offered advise on repairing the Van Wycke Trail for years and believe it is the priority. The Council should consider my advise to stabilize the trail on a much lower budget. I am available for consultation and support this option.

Julie Fulkerson – Trinidad Resident (*reccused herself from the discussion as a Councilmember*)

Hundreds of people walk the trail daily. The trail should be closed. It's my liability as a property owner. It should be fixed, or closed.

Council comments included:

Miller: Van Wycke Trail is my priority. It should be preserved as long as possible. **Davies** agreed.

*Motion (Miller/Davies) to allocate \$20-25,000 for Van Wycke Trail improvements and expedite the repairs as quickly as possible. **Passed 3-0-1.** Fulkerson abstained.*

4. Discussion/Decision regarding Updated Draft Investment Policy

City Manager Suiker explained that the City Council adopted its investment policy on July 13, 2005 that allows for investments in "repurchase agreements", which are extremely complicated and are what bankrupted Orange County. Trinidad has no such investments, but a review and update of the city's investment policy is in order and was recommended by the external auditor, Mr. Ralph Marcello. A much simpler version has been prepared in concert with discussion and review by Mr. Marcello and the attached is recommended to replace the more complicated policy adopted in 2005.

The earlier policy was plagiarized from a policy used by a larger entity and provided for, among other things, quarterly reports to be submitted by the City's Financial Advisor, and annual reports be prepared to compare the City's return to the Benchmark Index return. This has not been followed, and in reality, the City has no staff qualified for such concentrated and active portfolio management and recommends joining over 290 other local governments that participate in the State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) program.

The proposed policy has substantially fewer allowable investment options than the current policy and requires that any investments other than to LAIF be subject to Council approval. Investment in Local Agency Obligations continues to be necessary inasmuch as the County is the recipient of property tax revenues and there needs to be an approved mechanism to hold those funds prior to disbursement to the receiving entity.

The city currently has a number of federal home loan and mortgage bonds invested through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, that upon maturity, will be invested in LAIF in accordance with the new policy. Those maturity dates vary, with the longest out maturing October 15, 2014.

There were no public or Council comments.

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve and adopt the updated Investment Policy as submitted. Passed 4-0.

5. Discussion/Decision regarding Grand Jury Recommendations.

City Manager Suiker summarized the discussion item and explained that the following outline represents the City of Trinidad's response to the Grand Jury Report 2011-PW-01:

Recommendation 1: Provide greater education opportunities in the school system through community service and fraternal organization involvement.

Response to Recommendation 1: While the City of Trinidad supports efforts to encourage bicycle safety awareness, the City does not control nor direct educational offerings in the school system.

Recommendation 2: Establish an incentive program involving local law enforcement throughout Humboldt County encouraging safe bicycling by our youth to establish safe habits they can carry on into their adulthood.

Response to Recommendation 2: While the City of Trinidad supports efforts to encourage bicycle safety awareness, establishing such an incentive program cannot be undertaken due to insufficient staffing levels in the City. Additionally, Trinidad contracts with its law enforcement services with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department and defers to that entity for law enforcement-related programs.

Recommendation 3: Encourage the fast-tracking of infrastructure improvements to make safe routes to schools and throughout individual communities safer for biking.

Response to Recommendation 3: The City of Trinidad, through its contracted Engineer, will aggressively seek funding for bicycle-related infrastructure improvements as opportunities become available.

Recommendation 4: Law enforcement agencies throughout Humboldt County should re-evaluate how bicycling laws are enforced.

Response to Recommendation 4: The City of Trinidad contracts with its law enforcement services with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department and defers to that entity for enforcement of bicycle laws.

There were no comments from the public or Council.

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the response to the Grand Jury report and authorize the Mayor to sign and submit on behalf of the City. Passed 4-0.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 10:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor Pro-Tem