

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, August 8, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Bhardwaj called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Miller, Bhardwaj, Davies, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: Assistant City Clerk Sandra Cuthbertson, City Manager Karen Suiker., City Engineer Josh Wolf, City Planner Trever Parker.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Government Code section 54956.9(b)(3): Pending Litigation
 - a. Tsurai Ancestral Society Liability Claims for Damages, etc. against the City of Trinidad.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Bhardwaj announced that there were no decisions made during closed session to report.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Fulkerson/Davies) to approve the agenda as written. Passed 5-0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2012

Bhardwaj reported two changes to the minutes: She was in attendance and the approval line should show her name. Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve July 11 minutes as corrected. Passed 4-1. Fulkerson abstain.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Davies: Nothing to report.

Miller: Nothing to report.

Morgan: Nothing to report.

Bhardwaj: Nothing to report

Fulkerson: Redwood Transit System reports ridership up; Sunday service to start in Fall. Local grass fed beef is becoming more popular; their operation is expanding.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Karen Suiker – City Manager

Summarized staff report included in the Council meeting packet.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Pat Morales – Trinidad

Asked the Council when the B&B's water usage would be placed on the agenda.

City Manager, Suiker will place the item on the September agenda for discussion.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for June 2012
2. Staff Activities Report for July 2012
3. Letter to Coastal Conservancy7 to Support RCAA Study

All consent agenda items were approved 5 – 0 as presented.

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Change orders and Amendments to Agreement with GHD for Main and Trinity HR3 Project.

City Manager Suiker explained the additional work performed under the nine contract change orders (CCO). Josh Wolf, GHD project manager, answered council questions. The council approved the CCOs, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Amendment of Agreement with GHD for \$15,000. Motion (Fulkerson/Morgan) to approve the additional expenditures was passed 5-0

Council comments included:

General consensus: The project is looking great; all were pleased with the progress.

2. Resolution 2012-10; Approving OWTS Program Fees and Initial Implementation.

Trever Parker, City Planner, explained that the ordinance must be flexible enough to accommodate all existing systems. Operating revenue will come directly from fees. Initial fees will be higher due to staff time; renewal fees require less staff time and are therefore lower. Planner's responsibility to prepare residents by sending "friendly letter", comparison studies, and fee schedules, etc.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: Expressed concern that the cost breakdown be simplified, maximizing understandability.

Miller: "What's this going to cost me?" Terminology is unclear.

Davies: Instead of using columns, try boxes for cost breakdowns.
Inspector should not be employee of septic system company doing repairs. Inspectors should be independent. City could pay all or half of training fee for prospective inspectors. Can we train city staff?

City Mgr: Public works crew is too busy to take on a new assignment. County inspectors are available on a limited basis. Our building inspector may be willing to take on added responsibilities.

Action: Bhardwaj and Miller will work with Trever on the wording of the brochure.
Trever will place all background information on the city web site.
OWTS information will be placed on September agenda with appropriate changes.

3. Ordinance 2012-03; Proposing an Extension of the ¾% Sales Tax Increase

City Mgr: 2/3 of council must approve to adopt Ordinance 2012-03 giving the State Board of Equalization authorization to proceed with the extension process.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: The statement should be a straight forward list of services that would be affected if the measure does not pass. It should not be a political statement. It may be difficult to word-smith a statement acceptable to all the council members.

Morgan: Expenditures need to be clarified, stating: the money will be used to fund the city manager's position, public works expenses as well as public safety.

Action: Fulkerson and Morgan will write a statement to appear on the ballot.
Bhardwaj will also submit a written statement explaining the pros and cons.
Whichever statement is signed by the most council persons will be submitted to the State BOE.

4. Employee Vacation Policy Change

City Manager addressed changes to the proposed vacation leave policy.

Council comments included:

Miller: Thanked City Manager for the comparison study showing what other small communities have adopted as their vacation earning policies. He felt it made the decision easy to approve the new policy.

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the proposed vacation leave policy. Adopted 5-0

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fulkerson: Requested the council consider joining the

Miller:

City Manager: Suiker will miss the September council meeting due to a scheduled vacation.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Sandra Cuthbertson
Assistant City Clerk

Kathy Bhardwaj
Mayor