

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Bauman, Miller, Fulkerson, Davies. ***Bhardwaj was absent.***
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Karen Suiker, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Engineer Rebecca Crow

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – *No closed session scheduled.*

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Consent item 1 pulled for discussion. See below for discussion record.
Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the agenda as amended. Passed 4-0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 09, 2013 cc

Motion (Davies/Bauman) to approve the minutes as written. Passed 4-0.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Fulkerson: HTA and RREDC reports, followed by a report that Green Diamond announced tonight that they plan to work with local agencies to turn the Strawberry Rock area into a community forest and public trail.

Davies: RCEA is moving to the old Winzler & Kelly office building.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Marie Garibedan – Friends of Trinidad Forests

Asked the council to work with local agencies and community to protect and preserve the Strawberry Rock area. She provided background and history of the recreational interest in the area, and suggested a small committee be formed to act as an advisory group.

Michael Blackwell - Executive Director, Humboldt Senior Resource Center

Presented information on the Senior Resource Center, the meals it provides through the home delivered meal program, and invited the Council to show support for the organization and help deliver a meal on March 20.

Jack Nounan – Strawberry Rock activist

Organizer and activist for the Trinidad Community Forest group. Explained that the group met last week, and determined that the 640 Acres surrounding Strawberry Rock should not be logged. Requested that the issue be placed on the City Council agenda in March.

Margaret Hughes – Trinidad

Thanked the city for keeping the Trinidad Head Trail well maintained.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for December 2012.
2. Staff Activities Report for January 2013.
3. Agreement for Updating Personnel Policies and Procedures.
4. Proclamation 2013-01; Declaring the Week of February 17th as Engineer's Week.
Pulled and read by Mayor Fulkerson. Received by City Engineer Rebecca Crow.
5. Tennis Court Signage in Memory of Donna Lin.
6. Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-01; Appeal Fee Ordinance.

** Please note: This ordinance will enable the Council to set a fee by Resolution at a later date.*

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Passed 4-0.

X. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Status Report/Discussion regarding ASBS Water Quality Monitoring Requirements.

City Manager Suiker explained that in October 2004, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) notified the City of Trinidad, as a responsible party, to cease stormwater and nonpoint source waste discharges into the Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance. In 2005, the city requested an exception. On March 20, 2012, the SWRCB approved a General Exception with Special Protections for beneficial uses.

In a letter received June 05, 2012 from the SWRCB (attached), the city was notified that under the *General Exception to the California Ocean Plan Waste Discharge Prohibition...Into Areas of Special Biological Significance*, the city is required to commence ambient water monitoring in the upcoming storm season (2012-2013). The city notified SWRCB August 1, 2012 of its intention to meet these monitoring requirements through participation in a regional monitoring program.

Staff sent the attached letter on January 28, 2013, informing the SWRCB that the City needs additional time to identify a source of funding for the required ASBS monitoring for the 2012-13 Storm Season. A monitoring cost estimate of \$18 – 31,000 from ADH Environmental was received. The final cost is contingent on potential cost sharing among several additional agencies, as well as the options for data analysis and reporting. Staff is trying to negotiate a reasonable solution for the required monitoring and the necessary funding.

There was no public comment.

The Council thanked Suiker for her efforts. *No decision was made.*

2. Discussion/Decision regarding Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce Request for Additional Funding.

Chamber President Dennis Koutouzous introduced a letter submitted last May in anticipation of 2012-2013 fiscal year funding cycle. He explained that funding wasn't promised due to uncertainty of Sales Tax measure passing, and until a review of prior year expenditures were reviewed. Koutouzous presented a detailed spreadsheet that outlined the Chamber tourism expenses. He also discussed signage, web maintenance, and other long-term chamber commitments, and offered to answer any questions the Council had.

City Manager Suiker explained that the Chamber has received at least \$3000 or more each year. This year was underfunded, but they were invited to return after the fate of the sales tax ballot measure was determined. The City budget is now on track, so an additional contribution would be appropriate at this time.

Public comment included:

Steve Ruth – Trinidad

How directly does the Chamber benefit me? I can see how the businesses benefit, but what is the return on investment to me? What fundraisers and charities does it support? Is the T.O.T. money going to the Chamber, and back to the Library again?

Patti Fleschner – Trinidad

The Chamber promotes civic, economical, and social viability of the City. There's a symbiotic relationship with the general well being of the city, and the Chamber does a lot for Trinidad.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: Wanted to know how many dollars are anticipated to be received by the City from TBID tax, and suggested that a committee consisting of the Library, Chamber, and Museum be formed to determine allocation of that revenue.

Miller: I support the viability of the tourism because it supports the city's viability.

Motion (Miller/Bauman) to approve a total contribution of \$5000 for FY 2012-2013, and establish a committee to determine a fixed, future allocation between the Library, Chamber, and Museum that the City Manager shall approve and recommend to the Council at the next meeting. Passed 4-0.

3. Discussion/Decision regarding Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Request for Holly Tree Removal Permit Fee Waiver. City Manager Suiker explained that the total cost to issue the permit was \$995, and the Land Trust requests that the city waive the fees, or share the cost.

Public comment included:

Richard Johnson – Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

We feel it is important for the Council to consider streamlining the process for tree removals in Trinidad. It has cost us \$1000 and we haven't even begun work. Non-profit revenues are limited. The original request was to remove the holly tree and replant something new. If the Land Trust has to pay out \$1000, we will not be able to proceed with any further work on the project. The tenants, however, did maintenance on the tree without Land Trust approval. Any further action will require funds that the Land Trust does not have.

Mike Pinske – Trinidad

I support the Land Trust proposal. It is a historic building that needs all the help it can get. The tree could pose a hazard to the property, and planting a native tree in its place would be a worthy project.

Mike Morgan – Trinidad

The cost of that permit seems high. I'm not afraid of setting a precedent. I support helping the Land Trust.

Council comments included:

Davies: I like the tree as trimmed.

Fulkerson: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The look of the tree is the Land Trusts issue. Noted letter opposing city funds used to remove the tree by Kim Tays.

*Motion (Miller/Bauman) to split the cost of the permit 50/50 with the Land Trust. **Passed 3-1. Davies – No.***

4. Discussion/Decision regarding City Manager Employment Agreement.

Mayor Fulkerson thanked City Manager Suiker for her dedication and hard work, and noted the following accomplishments:

- Completed the Gateway Project, passed the field audit, and had sanctions removed.
- New streetlights
- Azalea/Pacific street project
- Town Hall Furnace project
- Water Fund rate increase
- ADA audit
- Strong Leadership and passed sales tax

Public comment included:

Richard Johnson shared the Councils good feelings regarding Suiker's management and accomplishments. *The audience applauded Suiker.*

*Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve and renew the employment agreement with the City Manager. **Passed 4-0.***

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Meeting ended at 9:45pm.**

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor