

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**Subject: Re: Meeting Notices****From:** paula levine <puzzpaula@gmail.com>**Date:** Mon, Oct 09, 2023 10:44 pm**To:** Trinidad City Clerk <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>

Public Comment:

Regarding speed humps:

I tested the speed humps on Old Arcata Rd, driving 30 mph over them in my 18 year old car.

The humps bothered neither my car or myself.

Therefore, for people speeding over the [15 or 20 mph?] speed limit, I guess they probably won't bother to pay attention to the humps.

How about deputizing some of the local folk to stop the speeders and pass out tickets? Hours are flexible and negotiable. They can go on the payroll.

Put up a few signs that speeders will be ticketed. Maybe they'll be enough \$\$\$ from ticket revenues to pay the deputies and finance a deputy pizza party.

Besides, why do the humps cost so much? What are they made of? Titanium? I'd screw some recycled railroad ties in the road. That would be as effective as humps and they only cost about \$25 each. Would that be illegal? Probably so. Why? Does anyone have a patent and/or monopoly on Humps? Who's behind the law? Is it a state law?

No worry. Where's Trinidad's maverick wild west spirit? Do a little research on the history, science and government regulation of speed humping and bumping. I suspect government overreach.

Railroad ties. What a picturesque small town village solution. Whittle and sand the top to match the configuration of the humps so you don't get sued for breaking an axle.

:) Paula Levine
Mill Creek, Trinidad

On Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 4:13 PM Trinidad City Clerk <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov> wrote:
October meeting schedule:

CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:00pm.

The City Council will hold a regular meeting at the Town Hall and by Zoom video-conference.

Meeting information (Agenda, Packet, and Zoom Video-Conference direct link) is available through the City Calendar page of the website. Additional information will be published to the meeting packet on or before Monday:

<https://trinidad.ca.gov/calendar>

Location: Trinidad Town Hall, 409 Trinity Street, Trinidad, CA

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 825 4588 3447

Memo for Public Comment to Trinidad City Council October 10, 2023

Richard Johnson – Trinidad Area Resident

When the City of Trinidad voted in the mid 2000's to increase the sales tax to a rate above the Humboldt County level, the city worked very hard to ensure that residents living in the 95570-zip code, but outside the city limits, would not be forced to pay the higher sales tax. City staff work closely with the State to alert merchants and sales companies about the two different sales tax rates in the 95570-zip code: currently 8.5% for city residents and 7.75% for residents outside the city limits.

That approach appeared to successfully work for several years as my personal experience would suggest. Unfortunately, that is not the present situation. Online sales are almost entirely charging the higher city tax rate for those of us who live outside the city limits. Amazon is one of the major culprits and even worse, there is almost no ability to talk to a real person to explain the sales tax difference; and if you happen to be successful talking to someone, they are generally clueless about the two rates.

This issue seems to be pervasive throughout the 95570-zip code. An informal survey of residents yielded comments from "Yes I know I'm paying the higher Trinidad tax, but I can't do anything about it." or "I didn't know I was paying the higher tax", to "our city is small you should pay the higher tax to support the city." For those of you who don't know what sales tax rate you are paying, please look at your on-line sales receipts. I would be interested in how many residents this affects.

I admit that I didn't notice I was paying the higher (and probably illegal tax rate) for several years. But recently I reviewed my on-line purchases including significant purchases to remodel a kitchen and bathroom and almost all the purchases were taxed at the higher Trinidad tax rate. I estimate several hundred dollars in excess sales tax paid.

I gladly pay the Trinidad tax when I purchase goods and services within the city limits. And many non-city residents volunteer their time and energy to support the city in numerous ways. But it is unfair and probably illegal that we are being forced to pay the Trinidad sales tax rate without having any input into the tax rate or how the tax funds are spent. Classic taxation without representation.

I have brought this to the attention of City staff, but there has not been much effort to resolve it. Admittedly there may be more important priorities for staff, but enough is enough. The City needs to resolve this issue.

So, I am here tonight to request that the City resolve this sales tax issue. It is incumbent on the city to act responsibly to settle this as soon as possible. At the very least, City staff must return to the Council at the next Council meeting with a plan and schedule to solve this problem and clarify the legal implication of taxing area residents at the City rate. Anything less than that is not acceptable to those of us who support the City but have no say in how our tax dollars are spent.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.