

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Binnie, Fulkerson Bhardwaj.
- City Staff in attendance: City Clerk Gabriel Adams; Police Chief Ken Thrailkill; City Attorney Paul Hagen; City Engineer Steve McHaney

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – No closed session

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed 4-0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 13, 2007 cc

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as submitted. Passed 4-0. Lin was absent.

June 27, 2007 cc2

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as submitted. Passed 4-0.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie - Parks and Recreation, Streets

Trails: Trinidad Head Trail – There has been an increase in unauthorized vehicles driving up the access road. An idea proposed is to run a lightweight chain between two posts across the road just past the Rancheria's rental house. The chain would remain unlocked and fastened with hooks, making it easy for authorized vehicles to access but obvious to unauthorized drivers that it's not ok to drive up.

Town Hall: Old fluorescent light fixtures have been removed and replaced with pendant lights. Energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs have been installed in these fixtures to help save energy and money. The remaining hanging spotlights will be replaced with recessed lighting. A new wood ceiling and light fixture has been installed in the foyer. 4 benches have been re-upholstered. Window shades, 2 window replacements, minor electrical upgrades, and refinishing the floor are projects still waiting to be finished.

Tsurai: Members of the Tsurai Ancestral Society, Mayor Lin, and I met with Mike Sebring, owner of the parcel whose property line is where a primary drainage ditch is located. This ditch carries water down to the edge of his property and onto the Tsurai Village site. We discussed a number of potential options for improving drainage of the site. Mr. Sebring has recently become a permanent resident of Trinidad.

Bhardwaj – Health & Human Services, Planning

Health: Village Keepers has reached its 6-month anniversary. The program started with meetings every Wednesday in the main Hall, but now meets every other Wednesday in the Club room. Lorraine Cook is leaving Trinidad temporarily and will be greatly missed. Kathy Brogdon, Pat Morales, and Barbara Ratzlaff have recently joined the VK group to assist in Lorraine's absence. The Village Keepers have had a number of successful program topics that appeal to younger residents, and will try reach out further into the community with their announcements.

Planning: The Planning Commission heard 2 projects last month, 1) Chevron signage and building changes, 2) Marilyn Sterling's addition on Ocean Avenue. The Chevron project was continued to July 18.

Lin – Water, Town Hall

City Hall: Draft budget is near completion. Copies will be made and available to the public by the end of this week. Draft budget will be brought to the Council for discussion and approval at the second meeting.

Fulkerson – Public Safety

Deferred to Police Chief's report.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk/IWMC – Adams: Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Hagen: Met with Mayor and discussed the following issues facing the City; 1) Chevron sign, 2) City Manager ordinance, 3) draft Tsurai Study Area Management Plan.

Previous City Attorney delivered 32 boxes filled with files. Files were archived and placed in storage.

Police Chief – Thrailkill – Announced arrests, service calls, and statistics.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)

Glenn Saunders – Trinidad

Suggested that the Council appoint a finance committee to oversee expenses.

Stacy Helgeson – Trinidad

Announced that she was forming a Relay for Life team representing Trinidad, and needed sponsors and/or team mates to assist her in raising money for the American Cancer Society.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approving the Patrick's Point Garden Club's request to install a Blue Star Memorial Highway marker in the Garden Club maintained triangle on Edwards Street. (Binnie)

*Motion (Binnie/Fulkerson) to approve the consent agenda. **Passed 4-0.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Appointment of a new City Council member to fill the remaining term of vacancy on the Council. (Lin)
Mayor Lin announced that a vacancy has occurred on the City Council as a result of June 8 resignation of Council member Dwight Miller, effective July 1, 2007.

A vacancy notice was posted from June 15 to July 2, 2007. At the end of the application period, the Council received only a single application letter. Trinidad resident Donald Ratzlaff expressed interest in filling the Council vacancy. Mayor Lin recommended appointing Donald Ratzlaff as the new City Council member to serve the remaining term vacant by Dwight Miller.

*Motion (Lin/Bhardwaj) to appoint Don Ratzlaff to serve as City Councilmember and fulfill the remaining term left by the resignation of Dwight Miller. **Passed 4-0.***

2. Discussion on appointing a committee for interviewing applicants and recommending a City Building Inspector. (Lin)

Mayor Lin announced that the current City Building Inspector has decided not to renew his contract and the City has begun the recruitment process to fill the position. The next step in this recruiting process is the formation of a committee to interview the applicants and make recommendation to the Council for a selection.

Since the Building Inspector must be an individual with special qualifications, the interviewers should have the knowledge in planning, engineering and the permitting process.

Mayor Lin proposed that the Council appoint the Council member responsible for planning (Kathy Bhardwaj), the City Engineer (Steve McHaney) and the City Clerk (Gabe Adams) as members of the building inspector selection committee responsible for interviewing applicants and recommending a selection to the City Council for filling the position.

There was no public comment.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Binnie) to appoint Kathy Bhardwaj, Steve McHaney, and Gabe Adams as members of the building inspector selection committee responsible for interviewing applicants and making a recommendation to the City Council for filling the position. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Discussion/Report on Trinidad Gateway Committee Phase I proposal. (Binnie)

Councilmember Binnie & resident Terry Marlow explained that the Gateway Committee has been working for some 2.5 years to develop a plan for an attractive and interesting entrance (gateway) to the City. This committee is composed of representatives from the City of Trinidad, Yurok Tribe, Rancheria, TAS, Caltrans, and the City Engineer. The Committee would like to present to the City Council a preliminary review of their progress, and a draft phase I proposal.

City Engineer Steve McHaney explained how the Gateway Project is funded, and the strategies that have been developed by the Committee to apply for other grants to supplement the project. He announced that the City recently was awarded the High Risk Rural Road grant for up to \$800,000 in funding, but that in order to receive the full amount the City must provide \$90,000 in matching funds.

Lori McKinnon of the Yurok Tribe and Trinidad resident Brad Twoomey presented the following functional and creative elements of the Gateway project, phase I.

- Sidewalk improvements
- Removal of the power pole at the corner of Main & Scenic Dr.
- Coloring, stamping, or staining of the underpass slope.
- Stone & Glass mosaic of the stem wall along the underpass sidewalk.

They also noted that the decisions soon to be made at the Planning Commission level regarding Chevron's image refresh applications were critical to the cohesive aesthetic of the Gateway project, and that the City should take every opportunity to see that the large Chevron sign be removed.

Julie Fulkerson agreed and suggested that the City hold-the-line and keep Redwood Oil in line with the character of the community.

No decision was made.

4. Discussion/Decision on approving and adopting an ordinance adding a section to the Trinidad Municipal Code to create the office of City Manager. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that at the last Council meeting (June 27, 2007), the Council approved conceptually changing the form City government from the current "City Council-Commissioners" to the "City Council-City Manager" form of government. The next step in this transformation process is the adoption of an ordinance to create the office of City Manager and incorporate it into the City's Municipal Code.

The draft ordinance is based on a template provided by League of California Cities, and a few modifications incorporated from the City of Arcata's ordinance.

There was no public comment.

*Motion (Lin/Fulkerson) to approve the first reading of the ordinance as modified to create the office of City Manager. **Passed unanimously.***

5. Discussion/Decision regarding updating the City's official website. (Binnie)

Councilmember Binnie explained that our official City website should be current, informative and easy to use. It is an essential part of citizen participation in our local government. Anyone visiting our website should be able to obtain accurate and current information as to who our Mayor, City Councilmembers and staff are and how they can be contacted. Our current website lists numerous incorrect names and incorrect contact information. This makes it difficult for citizens, visitors or business people to get accurate contact information. There also seems to be a problem with overlapping of text under "City Departments and Staff" and within several bulleted sections of this heading which makes the website nearly impossible to read.

Councilmember Binnie proposed that the City Council appoint one of our members to determine how best to bring our website up to date and how to keep it current. I would suggest that this person report back to the City Council at the second meeting in August with ideas, including an estimate of the cost of upgrading our website. Ideas and suggestions from staff, other Council members and the public would be encouraged.

Public comment included:

Kim Binnie – Trinidad

Planning Commissioners names and contact info should be added to the site.

Motion (Binnie/Lin) to appoint Councilmember Fulkerson to develop a plan for updating the official City of Trinidad website and submit a report including estimated costs to the Council at the August 22 meeting.

Passed unanimously.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Council meeting ended at 9:55pm.**

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor