

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Binnie called the meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Council members in attendance: Ratzlaff, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson, Binnie. Morgan absent (arrived at 7:35). City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, assistant clerk Becky Price-Hall.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. CLOSED SESSION**

Nothing to report out of closed session.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No changes to agenda. Approved as submitted.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- The August 25, 2010 Minutes have not yet been prepared. Minutes will be reviewed next meeting.

**VI. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS, INCLUDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

- **Ratzlaff:** Reported on Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting.
- **Binnie:** Reported on Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) Meeting
- **Bhardwaj:** Nothing to report.
- **Fulkerson:** Nothing to report.
- **Binnie:** City of Trinidad received a Certificate of Appreciation for being a partner in the Census 2010. Census results will be available in January.

**VII. ORAL STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager Steve Albright added the following to his written report:

1. There will be a meeting Thursday with the architect re Saunders Park. The contract will be signed if acceptable. The Gazebo cannot be eliminated because it's in the original grant with State Parks.
2. **Cutting Incident at Tsurai:** Samara Restoration will begin with planting plans and planting this week or next and hope to be finished by the end of September.
3. Status of earlier grant: Performance audit of Museum was initiated last month. The city must make sure all paperwork is in order.
4. New software package –reports not completed.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Marie Kelleher-Roy** – Trinidad Resident

Submitted a letter for the council. Kelleher-Roy would like Trinidad to become a Pampas Grass Free City, and use this as a way to educate residents. One pampas grass can be eliminated inexpensively, and native plants be established. Once it has become established it is difficult to eliminate.

**Sungnome Madrone** – Trinidad Resident

The speaker is so correct about getting natives re-established. Thanked all Council Members, Steve Albright and Gabe Adams – Thank you for helping his family to repair his septic system. Some of the repairs the city is assisting with are outside the city limits, and the cooperative partnerships are an exemplary thing. Diane Rosser, who could not make it sends her thanks as well.

**Kimberly Tays** – Came to talk about vegetation removal on Trinidad Head. Upset by vegetation removal on head and about the pruning and topping. Please consider policies about vegetation removal and trail maintenance.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Staff Activities Report through August, 2010
2. Financial Status Reports for July, 2010
3. Proclamation 2010-06 Recognizing the North Coast Stand Down

Mayor Binnie asked North Coast Stand-Down Public Affairs Director to come to the podium. Mayor Binnie then read the proclamation. Dawn commented that the Stand-Down can always use help from professionals and volunteers, with donations.

4. Resolution 2010-12 Authorizing the Submittal of a Watershed Management Grant
5. Set Public Hearing for October 13, 2010 to Consider Ordinance 2010-04 for a Transient Occupancy Tax Rate Increase

*Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the consent agenda as written. **Passed unanimously***

#### **X. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Appointment of Gail Becker to Fill Open Planning Commission Position  
Mayor Binnie introduced Gail Becker. Becker said she is a native of Humboldt County, and has been a resident of Trinidad for the last several years. She is willing to listen, learn, study, be an active participant, and work hard to maintain the unique character of this city.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Ratzlaff) to appoint Gail Becker as a Trinidad Planning Commissioner for a term extending from September, 2010 through December, 2012. **Passed unanimously***

2. Resolution 2010-13 Amending the FY2010-11 Annual Budget  
City Manager Albright discussed the proposed changes to the FY 2011 budget as described in the staff report. If approved, these changes will be effective immediately.

Albright also noted the following:

- We'll have to address animal control services
- Code enforcement activities
- Whale sculpture – The City is getting pressure to purchase sculpture but doesn't have funds right now;
- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) – reset public hearing for October on raising the TOT.

#### Council Questions/Concerns

**Fulkerson:** Why should the part time maintenance worker be increased to full-time? Albright replied, stating three reasons: 1) additional ground work at the museum; 2) maintenance at the Memorial Lighthouse; 3) Bryan wants this employee to get level 1 water treatment certification. These are three employees that are not leaning on their shovels, they're all workers. There are lots of compliments about them.

**Morgan:** The employee is excited about this opportunity. Morgan supports this idea.

**Bhardwaj:** Always sees them working.

There was no public comment.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve Resolution 2010-13 amending the FY2010 Trinidad City Budget.*

**Passed unanimously**

3. Discussion of Improvements to the Van Wycke Trail

*Fulkerson recused herself because the trail is on her property.*

City Manager Albright passed out photos of the trail. There is a need to assess and see where the trail is. It would cost \$2400 to do a full property survey. There may need to be legal work done to get an easement, but the trail does need to be shored up to keep it alive. Finance wise – since this is a public right-of-way, there are Prop 1B funds available for a consultant study. After the study, the money should be budgeted for engineering and construction. The bad news is that STIP funds will not be available this year for the paving of Azalea Pacific streets. The good news is that this frees up funding for other projects.

Council comments included:

**Binnie** – if the easement leaves city property, is the Prop 1B funding still available? How many properties are adjacent to the trail?

Public comment included:

**Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad**

This trail is well used, including bicycles going at a good rate of speed. It must be fixed.

**Fulkerson - Trinidad Resident**

Wants to thank Jim for bringing up this issue. Fairly sure that a survey was done with documents done for an easement with Julie. Willing to proceed with the project as long as it doesn't prevent her from building on her parcel. If drain pipe breaks, the water could go straight down the bluff. There should be no more rocks and weight added to the failing bluff.

**Sungnome Madrone – Trinidad Resident**

I designed and built the previous repair. From the trail upslope, it hasn't moved much. The area below the trail is moving down. Sometimes the ground moves away from the property lines. Work on the trail won't change the underlying problems – the ocean is cutting away at the toe of the bluff. Things will be moving and slumping especially with rainfall and septic discharges. It will cost \$11,000 total for treatments that will last for 18 years. Council's in the past have chosen to spend less than \$500 per year. If you go beyond something simple with this project, there will be a lot of work necessary on the utilities running down there. You need a light, local, cost effective way of dealing with this.

**Kimberly Tays – Trinidad Resident**

Requested that the alder branches along the trail not be cut.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Ratzlaff) to look through the files and, if a survey of the Van Wycke area does not exist, to authorize the staff to proceed with a survey of the area with O'Hern Surveying for an amount not to exceed \$2400. Passed 4-0.*

**XI. COUNCIL, STAFF, or PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Albright:** Public Hearing re: TOT Increase
- **Morgan:** A No Camping Ordinance
- **Albright:** Implementation guidelines for OWTS. Hagan draft language for VDU regulations.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting ended at 8:30.

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

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**Stan Binnie**  
Mayor