

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the agenda as written. Passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 08, 2012 cc,

Motion (Morgan/Miller) to approve the minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Davies: Nothing to report.

Miller: Coastal National Monument Gateway Committee met. Gave a brief summary of what each participating member is up to.

Morgan: Nothing to report.

Fulkerson: HTA: Noted the new HTA decal wrap that covers the entire bus. Good to see local money from the grower economy being cycled into the community and supporting the public transportation system.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Gabriel Adams, City Clerk: Gateway Project is complete, November Election ballots are being proofed, Household Hazardous Waste event on Saturday at the Rancheria, and T.O.T. revenue of \$95,000 received for 2011-2012 FY.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

John Spyropolous – Trinidad

Asked about the difference between consent and discussion agenda items. Concerned about safety of pedestrians passing under the freeway overpass at night. It should be lighted. Also, complained that the Civic Club did not allow him to attend their meeting.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for June 2012.
2. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Activity Report for the City of Trinidad.
3. Conversion of Employee Vacation Time to Cash.
4. Update on Moss Subdivision Appeal.
5. Final Payment to Code Publishing Inc. for Recodification of Municipal Code
6. Proclamation in Support of Gay Pride
7. Luffenholtz Creek Sediment Reduction Contracts with RCAA and GHD
8. Agreement for Services with GHD for Water System Turbidity Monitoring Project

Motion (Miller/Fulkerson) to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Passed 5-0.

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision regarding Dissolution of the Trinidad Gateway Advisory Committee with Appreciation for its Successful Contributions. (Davies).

In a brief staff report in the meeting packet for the Council, City Manager Suiker explained that the Trinidad's Gateway Advisory Committee was first considered by the Council in 1999 and members were formally appointed in 2004 to plan for the City's Gateway Improvement Project. The committee's efforts have been very successful, as has clearly been demonstrated by the outstanding results of the recently completed Gateway project. This Committee was also helpful in design and placement selection of the new streetlights and in working with CalTrans on the artistic component to be included in their seismic retrofit project.

Councilmember Davies explained that the Committee's original purpose has been filled, and that there are no current topics that need to be addressed by this committee at this time.

There was no comment from the Council or public.

*Motion (Davies/Miller) to dissolve the Trinidad Gateway Advisory Committee and direct staff to send letters of appreciation to committee members for their successful contributions. **Passed unanimously.***

2. Discussion/Decision regarding Consideration of Donation for new Air Service. (Fulkerson)

Councilmember Fulkerson introduced Don Enebuske, Executive Director of RREDC. Enebuske explained that in an effort to attract new air service to Humboldt County, a 1 million dollar, 2-year minimum revenue guarantee contract is required. A significant amount of money has already been raised by the community to support the service contract, and a match proposal from the Headwaters Foundation has the potential to help us reach our goal. To do so, additional funds from local communities are being sought.

RREDC has raised approximately \$30,000 of their \$125,000 goal. The objective is to raise enough money to send a clear message to the Headwaters Board by proving community support. Enebuske requests that Trinidad contribute up to \$1000.

Public comment included:

Steve Ruth – Trinidad

I do not support public money being spent on non-viable commercial enterprise at this time given the current state of our economy. If there was a big enough market for another airline in Arcata, it would already be here.

Council comments included:

Morgan: Very few of my customers fly into Humboldt, but I do support making this contribution.

Fulkerson: The ticket savings calculation is incredible. I support making the contribution. We need competitive airfare out of Arcata, and need the infrastructure to keep our economy strong.

Davies: Supports the contribution. Hopes that the medical community will step up and provide financial support as well. **Bhardwaj** agreed.

Enebuske further explained that Horizon left because Skywest bought them. Delta stayed 18 months but they were here during the economy crash. We saved a ton of money on tickets when they were here. We're buying a service to our community, not simply supporting a corporation. It's hard to predict the future, but this is clearly an investment to our infrastructure. American Airlines was going to come to Arcata, but the County wasn't able to pull the finances together in time. This time, we're getting the finances in order first so we can write the contract specific to our needs.

Motion (Morgan/Fulkerson) to approve a \$1000 contribution to RREDC for the Air Service Development Fund.

Passed unanimously.

3. Discussion/Decision to Consider Resolution 2012-12; Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Overturn the Citizens United Decision. (Miller)

Councilmember Miller explained the Citizens United court decision, and that he's profoundly in favor of free speech. The practical effects of the Citizens United decision basically allowed corporations to gather large

amounts of money and spend it during elections to support their candidates or cause. Miller further explained that abstract ideas don't always work out in practice. A series of court decisions have given corporations the same rights as individuals. The proposed Resolution will send a message to congress that Trinidad opposes the Supreme Courts interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the rights of corporations and that money does not equal speech.

Council comments:

Morgan: I would like to support the resolution but can't because of the second part of it that says "...the expenditure of money by any *person or entity to influence...*" I would like to see *person* excluded from the statement. Then I could support it.

Bhardwaj: I typically don't like to get Trinidad involved in these bigger issues, but I will support the Resolution.

Fulkerson: Also support the Resolution, but find it ridiculous that we even have to have this conversation. It's a no-brainer.

*Motion (Miller/Fulkerson) to approve Resolution 2012-12 as written. **Passed 4-1. No-Morgan.***

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 8:15pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor Pro-Tem