

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ladwig called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Ladwig, Grover, Davies. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Eli Naffah, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, HSCO Lt. Kevin Miller.

**II. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – *No closed session.***

**III. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – *No closed session.***

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion (Miller/West) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.*

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 04-10-19 cc**

*Motion (West/Miller) to approve minutes as submitted. Passed 4-0.*

**VII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**West:** HCAOG: League of Ca Cities discussing pension crisis.

**Miller:** RCEA discussing solar power alternatives to biomass. Airport solar project underway.

**Davies:** Trails Committee update. Students from UC Davis to attend the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladwig:** HTA rolling out their 100% solar powered bus to Trinidad.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

**City Manager Naffah** announced that the Fish Festival is still looking for volunteers. Attended PARSAC annual meeting, and shared the Coastal Commission letter regarding the Trinidad Rancheria Hotel Project.

Davies suggested that a written staff report be included in the packet on a monthly basis. He also stated his disapproval of closed-door, Government-to-Government meetings taking place with the City and the Tribal Governments. Meeting content should be disclosed. Requested legal advice from the City Attorney on how these meetings should be conducted.

**IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

**Dorothy Cox – Trinidad**

Tennis Court should not be used as a kids play area.

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Financial Statements April 2019**

*Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the consent agenda. Passed unanimously.*

**XI. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Law Enforcement Update/Discussion with Humboldt County Sheriff Representatives.**

The City has invited Humboldt County Sheriff Department Officials to attend the meeting and discuss law enforcement related issues, priorities, Measure Z funding, and public safety options for the upcoming fiscal year. HCSO Lt. Kevin Miller highlighted stats for May, explained that the SO is understaffed by 17 patrol positions, discussed recruitment strategies, and explained his new role as the supervisor for the northern half of the County. He also explained accountability processes for the deputies assigned to contract cities, and how their hours can be tailored to fit each city's needs.

Presentation item only. There was no public comment.

2. Discussion Regarding Open-Container Laws Affecting Public Events within the City of Trinidad.  
City Manager Naffah explained that established City events such as Trinidad Art Nights, Fish Festival, Taste of Trinidad, as well as new events proposed that enrich community spirit and engagement, often involve refreshments and the consumption of alcohol beverages (beer/wine). With the increase in frequency and popularity of these events, concerns have been raised within the city of the open container laws and regulations that affect the servers and public. The City has an obligation to inform and educate the community on the regulations that exist.

Lt. Kevin Miller agreed that public education is the way to ensure problems associated with open containers is minimized.

There were no public or Council comments.

*The Council agreed, by consensus, that staff write a letter to the Art Night representatives and all participating businesses to inform them of the open container law.*

3. Discussion/Decision regarding Access Humboldt Proposal for Video Production Services for Trinidad public meetings.  
City Manager Naffah explained that Access Humboldt has submitted a proposal to provide video consulting to the City for televising/archiving official City of Trinidad public meetings. The proposal was briefly discussed at the June 05, 2019 Special Council Meeting, but no conclusion was reached as the topic was a small component of the larger budget discussion. The Council asked for more time to analyze the proposal, and compare the costs & benefits relative to the City's limited resources and population.

**Davies** and **Miller** agreed that if we're going to do it, we should do it right and get the full set up.

Public comment included:

**Elaine Weinreb** – Trinidad Area Resident  
I'm completely in favor of this proposal.

Council comments included:

**Miller:** I'm excited about this project and feel it will reduce some transparency issues. We should borrow from ourselves to get this done if we have to.

*Motion (Miller/Grover) to include Option 1 in the 2019-2020 budget and negotiate the labor rate of \$35/hour for production services. **Passed unanimously.***

4. Presentation/Discussion/Decision from the Trinidad Civic Club regarding Club Meeting Room Improvement Proposal.  
City Manager Naffah explained that the Trinidad Civic Club was given a budget commitment of \$5,000 in City's 2018-2019 budget for improvements to the Club Meeting Room located adjacent to the kitchen and City Hall office in the Trinidad Town Hall. The funds have not been spent in the 2019 fiscal year. The Club would like to see the unspent amount combined with an additional \$5,000 allocation in the upcoming Fiscal Year for a total budget of \$10,000 for room improvements/updates. The Council asked for clarification from the Civic Club as to the history of their involvement in this facility, and additional information on what the goals are for this project.

Trinidad Civic Club representative Jan West presented a slide show to clarify the vision and purpose of the improvements, along with a brief history of the Club's relationship with the City regarding the kitchen and meeting room facilities.

There was no public comment.

Council comment included:

**Miller:** Consider looking into grants for historic preservation for room improvements.

Motion (Miller/Grover) to include \$10,000 in this year's budget, plus \$5k in the next 2 year's budgets for improvements to the Club Room for a total of \$20,000 contribution by the end of 2022. **Passed 3-1-1. Yes-Miller, Ladwig, Grover. No – Davies. Abstain – West.**

5. Discussion/Update regarding Trinidad Head Cellular Communication Facility Lease.

City Manager Naffah explained that the September 2019 lease agreement extension deadline with Verizon Wireless is just a few months away. In a recent conversation with Verizon, they noted the 3<sup>rd</sup> site may not be up and running until early 2020.

Council comments included:

**Davies:** There are penalties for staying beyond the lease date.

**Miller:** I've been very caution with this item. The lease provides a substantial amount of revenue to the City, and I'm not interested in playing hard-ball with Verizon. I propose not vacating Verizon until sufficient coverage is proven. I'm majorly concerned with decreasing coverage for not only the city residents, but also everyone else in the Trinidad area that relies on the coverage for business, safety, or access to information.

**Ladwig:** We need to see the deliverables. Any discussion about contract extensions must be brought back to the Council. This has been voted on already. We need answers by the July meeting. The Attorney and City Manager may need to write a letter to Verizon immediately.

**West:** I have no faith that Verizon will follow through. The contract terms need to be pushed, and we need to review the contract again in July.

*By consensus, the Council requested staff to return to the July meeting with the contract for further discussion.*

6. Discussion/Decision regarding Resolution 2019-10; Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.

City Manager Naffah explained that two Special Meetings were held by the Council on May 22 and June 05 to participate in an in-depth review of the upcoming FY2020 City Budget. After a thorough analysis of the current financial statements, discussion with City Staff and Consultants for upcoming department needs, and an extensive review of cost-saving measures balanced with Council and public priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, Staff is pleased to present a balanced budget for 2020. The heavy-lifting was done during the 2 workshops held, so a brief presentation summarizing the outcome will be given in anticipation of Council supporting of a Resolution Adopting the FY2020 Budget.

**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**Revenues**

General Fund Revenue Projection:	\$ 672,490
Cemetery Plot Purchases:	\$ 9,250
Humboldt Sanitation Franchise Fees:	\$ 10,000
TDA Transfer-In for TPW Labor:	\$ 12,000
COPS Grant 2019 Surplus:	\$ 44,000

**Total Revenue: \$ 747,740**

**Expenses**

General Fund Admin	\$ 369,221
Public Works:	\$ 174,801
Fire:	\$ 22,550
Police:	\$ 87,099
Cemetery:	\$ 1,7125
Waste Mgt:	\$ 17,174

**Total Expenses: \$ 687,970**

**Positive Balance: \$ 59,770**

**BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Slurry Seal Project + Roadway repairs, \$40,000 paid with Gas Tax Funds
- Salary Study
- Maintaining SCBA's – Vital equipment needed to protect volunteer Fire (may be funded by Measure Z)
- Civic Club Room Improvements
- Maintains Critical and General Government Services
- Purchase of a replacement Public Works Truck from MCSD

Council comments included:

**Davies:** I'm looking for ways to save money, and have 4 suggestions: 1) Reduce the TOT allocation from 10% to 5%, 2) Only give the Civic Club \$5k for the room improvements, 3) Cancel the Police phone line, and 4) Cap medical benefits.

**Miller:** Salary study should be performed asap.

**Ladwig:** Before cutting benefits, I want to see the results of the salary study. City Manager Naffah has the authority to explore medical benefit options in preparation of the December enrollment period.

*Motion (Ladwig/West) to approve Resolution 2019-10; Adopting the 2019-2020 Budget, and authorize staff to remove the Police Department phone line from the GF Police Budget. **Passed unanimously.***

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Water Application Process
- Verizon Lease Agreement
- Committee Resolution

**ADJOURNMENT: 9:37pm**

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
Trinidad City Clerk

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**Steve Ladwig**  
Mayor