

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL &
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ladwig called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Ladwig, Grover, Davies. Planning Commissioners in attendance: Graves, Johnson, Kelly, Lake. Stockness – Absent. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Eli Naffah, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Planner Trever Parker.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

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

XI. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

1. General Plan Update Presentation and Discussion regarding various policies, including; Water, Annexation, Accessory Dwelling Units, etc.

City Planner Trever Parker explained that the primary purpose of this meeting is to update the Council on the General Plan update progress and process, and receive input regarding the next steps for moving forward on specific issues such as: 1) Review of the update procedure, 2) Water Policy, 3) Water Rate direction, 3) Annexation, 4) ADU's.

The General Plan serves as the land use "constitution" for the City, and all land use regulations must be consistent with it. It is intended to serve for approximately 20 years, with 5-year updates. The State dictates that all cities and counties must have General Plans that contain certain elements and meet certain criteria. In addition, the Coastal Act and Coastal Commission require jurisdictions in the Coastal Zone to maintain a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The existing General Plan was adopted in 1978. Updates have been attempted since 1997. The City has received grants to help facilitate an update, and throughout the years have been sidetracked by various projects and issues. The Coastal Commission has recently started providing input on the current update, which will likely result in numerous revisions, additions, and reorganizations.

Commissioner Graves: We are looking at 7 Elements, but only 1 – the Housing Element – is required to be updated frequently. Land Use, Conservation & Open Space, Housing, Noise & Safety, Circulation, Cultural.

Councilmember Miller: Where does "climate" fit in? The City should be thinking big about energy independence and developing its own micro-grid power supply.

Commissioner Kelly: Explained how climate and environment have been incorporated into the various elements. **Parker** added how climate change and adaptation have been addressed in the discussions of water and bluff stability.

Commissioner Johnson: Added that sea-level rise has also been discussed in various places throughout the plan.

Commissioner Lake: Want to encourage public engagement and participation, and see all written comments identified and published online. To encourage engagement, future meetings should be scheduled with regularity so the public knows in advance when to participate.

Councilmember Davies: We should leave here tonight with a meeting schedule. The new Council needs to see all the elements.

Public comment included:

Steve Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident

The more incentives that are embedded in the plan, the better the implementation will be.

Shirley Laos – Trinidad Rancheria

The City and Rancheria are connected in many ways. The record should be clear that the Rancheria has been engaged in the General Plan update process for many years.

Council/Commissioner comments included:

Commissioner Johnson: To help speed up the process, can we get extra help? Are there any additional resources at SHN the City can utilize? What lies between now and December for the Planning Commission that could interrupt a regular schedule? **Trever** explained that there are many things in the works that could disrupt the General Plan focus; LCP Round 6 Grant, STR 2-year review, Stormwater Phase II permits, Van Wycke Trail, etc.

Commissioner Lake: Are we up against a timeline with the LCP grant? Parker explained that the grant ends December 2019.

Mayor Ladwig: Could we have a draft water policy by October? **Parker** explained that depending on how much information the Coastal Commission wants and depending on what pops up between now and October, it's possible.

Commissioner Graves: Does the City want to consider the possibility of hooking up to Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District?

Councilmember Davies: Leave the language as written. The word "compelling" is only as good as your lawyer. **Councilmember West** agreed.

Councilmember Miller: I don't want to tie the City's hands by eliminating a possibility. The climate is changing and who knows whether there will be a need for HBMWD resources in the future. The policy can be reworded to discourage the option unless there is a compelling public necessity. I want to see flexibility built into this policy.

Public comment included:

Dorothy Cox – Trinidad

I can't imagine encouraging growth that would increase traffic and congestion.

Victoria Sackville – Trinidad

Take care of the present day. The future will take care of itself. Things continue to evolve, and we should be very careful how we word things.

Dave Hankin – Trinidad Area Resident

The language is fine as written. Please consider what the impact of your decisions today could have on the greater Trinidad area. Pleading to the City to recognize this. Westhaven CSD has very explicit priorities spelled out for new connections.

Steve Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident

We live here because we don't want to live in McKinleyville. Described the implications of connecting HBMWD, and suggested strengthening the current language. We are truly conservative, living within our needs. Rainwater falls on Trinidad. Storage and collection is key. Liability, sustain, conserve.

Mayor Ladwig: Keep language that encourages and incentivizes conservation. Regarding HBMWD, aren't there limitations that already exist that would keep development in check?... septic, build-out?

Parker agreed, stating there are many checks and balances that exist. Adding an unlimited water supply won't invite careless and unregulated development.

Councilmember Miller: I'm fully supportive of Madrones proposal, but we need to be aware that HBMWD has water available and we don't know what's in store for the Luffenholtz Watershed in the distant future. I don't want to shut the door on future possibilities, and I'd rather use as much of the allocated water before sending all of it to SoCal.

Commissioner Lake: Keep the language as-is. Not in favor of growth-inducing decisions.

Commissioner Kelly: Water is a precious resource. To close off this option would not be doing justice to the community at-large. We may need it as a last resort, and it would be irresponsible to close the door on it.

Commissioner Graves: I'd like to explore the cost of a hookup to HBMWD so we can make an informed decision. We are public officials and it's our duty to be thorough.

Mayor Ladwig: A good first goal is to have the Introduction/Vision Statement to the Council in September.

Parker: The Planning Commission should review the Circulation element in September, and move it to the Council in October.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:15pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
Trinidad City Clerk

Steve Ladwig
Mayor