

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem West called the open meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members in attendance: Miller, West, Grover, Davies. Ladwig was absent. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Eli Naffah, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

II. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation for City Manager Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.
The Council met at the conclusion of the open session, and had nothing to report out.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion (Miller/Grover) to move approve the agenda as written. Passed 4-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10-08-19 cc.

Motion (Davies/Grover) to approve the minutes as written. Passed 4-0.

VI. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Miller: HCAOG: Report on unmet transit needs findings, the outreach process, and an update on Last Chance Grade. RCEA: Discussed energy independence and how to “island” Humboldt from the regions energy interruptions.

Davies: Trails Committee resolution on the agenda tonight.

Grover: RREDC: Meeting cancelled due to power outage. Also attended the Planning Commission meeting.

West: Met with Mayor Ladwig, Planning Commissioner John Graves, and City Manager Naffah to discuss water policy and ongoing priorities.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Naffah highlighted items listed in the written staff activity report. Announced the Joint Meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission, and STR Committee scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, at 6pm. Also noted that the annual City audit is currently underway, and provided the Council an update on the Verizon Cell tower relocation. Regarding the water policy brainstorming discussions with the Mayor and Planning Chairman, topics included service area, future demands, priorities, a Water Element for the General Plan. The idea is to hold a water workshop with both the Planning Commission and Council sometime in January.

Davies: I have a problem with the meeting held by the Manager, Planning Chairman, the Mayor, and Councilmember West. I don't like the idea of 2 Councilmembers pushing their agendas, and I want to see these meetings held in open session, on the record. I also object to the Government-to-Government meetings held with the Tribal entities. If they occur, there must be detailed minutes so the public knows what was discussed.

City Manager Naffah explained that the discussions were very general and did not reach any conclusions or decisions.

Miller: I disagree with Davies. Not every meeting or discussion that Councilmembers individually participate in require Brown Act reporting. These conversations are exploratory. No decisions are made.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

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

Erin Rowe – Trinidad Resident

Questions regarding Verizon's hold-over rent for the Trinidad Head cell facility, and lease status.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activity Report - October 2019
2. Financial Statements September 2019
3. Law Enforcement Report October 2019
4. Declare Public Works 2003 Ford Ranger Surplus and Authorize Staff to Dispose of the Vehicle at Fair Market Value.

Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the consent agenda as written. Passed 4-0.

XI. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision Regarding Resolution 2019-13; Establishing the Trails Advisory Committee.
Councilmember Davies explained that the Trails Committee has been operating for a few years without any bylaws or resolution that formally addresses its purpose, objectives, member terms, etc. The Resolution proposed will establish the Committee with the same legitimacy that the STR Committee was created with earlier in 2019. With regard to the Tribal Government member, that position may be filled by anyone the Tribe designates.

There were no public or Councilmember comments.

Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve Resolution 2019-13; Establishing the Trails Advisory Committee. Passed 4-0.

2. Discussion/Decision Regarding Development of an Energy Independence and Climate Resilience Committee.
Councilmember Miller explained that climate change is real and the time to act is now. The recent threats of wildfires on our community is serious, and we learned first-hand by the recent PG&E outages. We must begin planning to ensure we have reliable, locally-supplied electricity, and there is irony and bad policy in encouraging (or using) fossil-fueled devices which contribute to global warming.

The proposed ad-hoc Energy and Resilience Committee of the City Council, two members, will study and recommend policy proposals for: 1) Ensuring greater resilience and independence with regard to electricity and internet access, 2) Lowering the City's carbon footprint, 3) Building the City's emergency preparedness. The Committee will seek wide-ranging input from residents to experts in exploring best practices. The Council will also work with the City Planner and Commission to codify policies that ensure movement toward the goals of achieving local and green energy, and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee will make monthly reports to the City Council.

Relevant to the aforementioned goals of achieving local and green energy, ensuring electricity independence, and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions the proposal is to include the following statement:

We support the use of local biomass-produced energy only for the shortest time necessary to meet base-load power for Humboldt County, and we urge RCEA to plan immediately for clean and green base-load power, including rapid incentives to increase storage options for solar and wind energy.

Public comment included:

Steve Madrone – County Supervisor and Trinidad Area Resident

The bulk of what you put forward is great, but the biomass plants are old and in need of upgrades and emissions controls. The wood will burn – either through wildfires or in controlled environments like biomass plants. However, transportation of materials from a long distance is a carbon-negative. So, biomass, under certain conditions, is ok.

Written correspondence received:

Nancy Ihara – Manilla, CA

Supports the Resolution as submitted.

Council comments included:

Davies: RCEA is already working to make Humboldt energy independent. The resolution is premature, and we should wait until the General Plan is more developed before drawing conclusions.

Miller: This is a mild statement. We are in a planetary crisis and should make our statements firmly and frequently. This resolution does not tie our hands at all.

Motion (Miller/Grover) to approve the resolution statement as written. Motion failed; 1-Yes (Miller), 3-No.

*Motion (Grover/Miller) to approve the resolution and amended statement, with the first sentence removed (“We support the use of local biomass...to meet baseload power for Humboldt County,”) and leaving the second sentence as written. Miller and Grover will work together as the Committee. **Passed 3-1, No-Davies.***

3. Discussion/Decision to Accept the Letter of Resignation from Building Official John Roberts and Direct Staff to Begin the Recruitment Process to Fill the Position.

City Manager Naffah explained that the City received a letter of resignation from Building Official John Roberts, hoping to conclude his services effective December 31, 2019. Mr. Roberts has provided professional plan check, building inspection, and various other related assignments for the City of Trinidad since December 2009. City Staff must begin the recruitment process immediately to minimize any gap in building services to the community. A recruitment notice for the position available will be developed and advertised immediately.

There were no public or Council comments.

*Motion (Miller/Grover) to accept the resignation of Building Official John Roberts and direct staff to begin the recruitment process to fill the position. **Passed 4-0.***

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- November 19, 2019 STR Joint Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50pm

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
Trinidad City Clerk

Approved by:

Steve Ladwig
Mayor