

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Councilmembers Marlow, Bowman, and Heyenga. Councilmember Cuthbertson was absent. Chief Thrailkill joined the meeting at 8:00pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Heyenga/Bowman) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no items from the floor.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no consent agenda items.

VI. AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. Public comment on Unmet Transit Needs. (Marlow)

Marlow introduced this item and Lin asked the audience if there were any unmet transit needs.

John Webb, resident on Stagecoach, described the following unmet transit needs:

More service mid-day to and from Trinidad. There is a four hour gap in service (no busses to or from Trinidad 11:24 am and 3:53 pm) that makes it very difficult to conduct business (shopping or a medical appointment, for example) in Arcata or Eureka and return to Trinidad without spending the entire day away. Seven day a week service including holidays.

Webb contended that low ridership may be the result of fewer buses. More buses would provide greater flexibility to potential riders and increase use of buses.

Kim Tays agreed with Mr. Webb that there needs to be additional bus service to and from Trinidad. The earliest RTS bus leaves Trinidad at 6:55am and the second bus leaves at 9:18am. This creates a pretty big gap between the first and second bus in the a.m. leaving Trinidad.

Also, from HSU (Library Circle), there is a large gap between the 4:13 pm bus to Trinidad and the 6:27 pm bus to Trinidad. If people are leaving HSU from school or work at 5:00 pm, they have to hang around for another 1-1/2 hours before the next bus to Trinidad. Most people do not want to wait around that long. They want to get home.

I know that oftentimes I am the only person who is on the bus coming back into Trinidad in the evenings, but I think that would change if the scheduling was more convenient for people's work and school schedules. I think the large gaps in service in the morning and afternoon causes people to drive.

Council comments:

Bowman said there may not be enough riders to justify additional buses to Trinidad.

Lin said he will continue to push for the transit changes noted by the speakers.

Marlow said the City Clerk will forward the comments to HCOAG.

2. Discussion/Decision on draft policies and procedures to manage vegetation on City property. (Heyenga)

Heyenga introduced the item noting these were draft ideas for discussion only, based on resident's issues with trees on City property. He also noted the town meeting on May 2, at which parts of the draft Management Plan for the 12.5 acres will be discussed and encouraged any residents with concerns about view issues involving the 12.5 acres to attend and voice their concerns.

Council comments:

Bowman: we should develop such policies in a timely manner and not make homeowners wait too long; the Vegetation and Views Ordinance affects residents outside the 12.5 acres and we need similar procedures within the 12.5 acres.

Lin clarified the Management Plan meeting on May 2, explaining that this would be a scoping meeting for the public and the entire draft plan would not be released to the public. After the May meeting a public draft will be released and at the end of a comment period another public meeting would be held.

Marlow asked Planning Commissioner Tom Odom why the 12.5 acres was excluded from the Vegetation and View Ordinance? Odom said that City Planners understood that the Management Plan would have its own policies and procedures to manage vegetation in the 12.5 acres.

Public comments:

Brad Twoomey: the Vegetation and Views Ordinance applies only to a specific overlay area of the City. Is Heyenga trying to expand the area covered by the Ordinance? Heyenga agreed that the Vegetation and View Ordinance only covered the overlay zone and he did not intend to expand that area.

Sungnome Madrone: the Management Plan Team should build on ideas in the Vegetation and Views Ordinance, but there are other issues of erosion control, bluff stability, and cultural resources in the 12.5 acres.

There was no Council action on this item.

3. Discussion/Decision on repairs for Van Wycke Trail. (Marlow)

Marlow introduced this item and reviewed the budget. He noted that the project would need a Coastal Development Permit and a CEQA exemption, in addition to a signed contract for the work.

Council comments:

Lin: will the majority of the cost be covered by FEMA? Marlow said that the request for FEMA funds had been sent. Chief Thraikill said he expected a response from FEMA in 2-3 weeks.

Bowman asked how much will the cultural monitor cost? Marlow said the Yurok cultural department charges \$500/day. Madrone, project coordinator, said there would be only 2-3 days of digging which required a monitor.

Public comments:

Tom Odom asked for a description of the work to be done. S. Madrone described the work.

Stan Binnie asked for an estimate of how long the repair would last. Madrone said the last fix lasted 12 years, but the lifespan of any work depended on the severity of winter storms.

Motion (Bowman/Marlow): to approve a contract with RCAA as described in the proposal from Madrone Enterprises.

Heyenga offered two amendments: authorize Councilmember Marlow to sign on behalf of the City and hold off the work pending FEMA funding. Chief Thraikill cautioned that making the project dependent on FEMA funding could indicate the work wasn't that urgent and could jeopardize that funding. Heyenga said he did not want to jeopardize the funding and withdrew that amendment. Marlow did not want to sign the contract but said that city staff should sign contracts. Heyenga changed his amendment to authorize the Mayor to sign, and the Mayor agreed.

*Motion with the amendment authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract **passed unanimously.***

4. Discussion/Decision on developing incentives for solar energy installations. (Heyenga)

Heyenga introduced this item noting it was for the Council's conceptual approval of the project and agreeing to consider proposals which would be brought back.

Council comments:

Lin asked Mark Urfer about the cost of photovoltaic (pv) systems and whether such systems actually save energy. Urfer explained costs and State and Federal incentives. He also noted that pv systems can actually produce more electricity than the homeowner uses, the excess going back into the grid.

Bowman suggested we reduce permit costs.

Public comments:

Tom Odom suggested we check with the City Planner about design review issues.

Audience members who supported the proposal to develop incentives were **Stan Binnie, Kim Tays, Kathy Bhardwaj,** and **Mark Urfer**.

Brad Twoomey asked about the building inspector fees and how they were determined.

Council comments:

Marlow saw potential problems with complicated projects; suggested incentives should be reimbursements after the project is completed.

Lin said there could be a fund established to help residents pay for such systems, for example with a utility users tax such as Arcata has.

Motion(Heyenga/Lin): to approve developing policies and procedures encouraging the use of solar energy in Trinidad, and to authorize the commissioner of planning to bring draft policies and procedures back to the Council passed unanimously.

5. Discussion/Decision on getting geologist's analysis of possible slipout at Memorial Lighthouse parking lot. (Heyenga)

Heyenga introduced this item, noting that it was a streets issue and the Council may want to give the issue to the Streets Commissioner.

Council comments:

Lin said he had looked at the crack in the parking lot.

Public comments:

Sungnome Madrone: the crack extends into the landscaping and is just another example of a landslide scarp common on the north coast. The amount of water going onto the bluff may contribute to the problem.

Stan Binnie: wondered if lawn watering contributed to the problem.

Motion (Heyenga/Lin) to authorize the City Engineer to study a potential slipout at the Memorial Lighthouse and report to the Council. Passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Lin adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Dean Heyenga
Councilmember

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor