

DRAFT MINUTES

SUMMARY MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Heyenga called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Councilmembers Marlow, Bowman, Lin, and Cuthbertson. No staff were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In lieu of the Pledge, the Barbershop Quartet "Humboldt Harmonaires" sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America."

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Marlow: Requested Consent Agenda item #2 be removed for discussion.

Council agreed to hold item #7 (codifying Municipal Code) until a future meeting after the new Council is sworn in. Council also agreed that items #4 (Park Bond) and #6 (storage facility) would be discussion items only.

Motion (Cuthbertson/Bowman) to approve the revised agenda. Passed unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Joe Silva spoke about his recent lay off. He expressed appreciation for being able to work for Trinidad and thanked the community. He wanted to stop any rumors about his layoff in that he knew his job was temporary until a permanent officer was hired and trained, something which has been accomplished. His layoff was not due to any budget shortfall and fuel costs getting to and from work were also not a factor.

The Council thanked Joe for his service and noted how well he worked with residents and especially staff and students at the school.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Barbershop Quartet Proclamation

Motion (Lin/Cuthbertson) to approve the Consent Agenda item. Passed unanimously.

VI. AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. Discussion/Decision on request from Trinidad School Superintendent for mowing athletic field. (Heyenga/Trinidad School Superintendent)

Superintendent Geoff Proust explained the proposal, noting that no Federal funds are available for maintenance and that the State requires maintenance funds cannot be spent on landscape maintenance. Since the athletic field is a City park after school hours the City has some responsibility to assist in maintaining the field. He estimated that during the growing season the School and the City would mow the field 10 times each.

Council discussion focused on Public Works employee Bryan Buckman's estimates of mowing costs (\$1,000) which included City personnel and equipment. They also discussed demands on Public Works employees during the growing season, when trails, the cemetery, and other public areas must be mowed.

Public comments:

Stan Binnie: Could organizations that use the field contribute to its upkeep? Proust answered probably not since these groups, e.g. Little League, usually go to the community for funds.

Glenn Saunders: Such work is not in the budget; Public Works is so busy that it takes a long time to get work done in the cemetery.

Kathy Bhardwaj: Why is there such a difference in the School's and Bryan's cost estimates? Council explained the difference.

Council discussion/action:

The consensus was that the Council would rather make a direct contribution to the school for mowing expenses than amend the lease agreement.

Motion (Lin/Marlow) to allocate \$1000 for this year to help maintain the athletic field at Trinidad School.

Passed unanimously.

After passage, the Council clarified with the Superintendent that the period covered by the allocation would be Oct. 1, 2006 to Oct. 1, 2007.

2. Discussion/Decision on appeal of Water Commissioner's decision regarding double base rate. (Heyenga/Snell)

Heyenga introduced this item noting that it was submitted by a resident. Lin reviewed the background for the decision. Applicant Barbara Snell explained the history of the residence and that the second floor was no longer a rental but the entire house was being used as a single family dwelling.

Council discussion focused on the meaning and interpretation of ordinance 98-2, which was the basis for Lin's decision. Definitions and interpretations of "dwelling unit," "use," and "removed from service" were singled out for clarification and intent.

Public comment/questions:

Mike Morgan: Section A of the ordinance seems the most relevant to the issue.

Richard Johnson: Will this be the process for each second dwelling/base rate question?

Council discussion/action:

Council consensus was that since the Snell's "second unit" was part of the house ~~and was no longer being rented~~ *the building has been converted to a "single use" and the second unit has been "removed from service."* (TM)

Motion (Cuthbertson/Lin) to reduce the water base rate at 430 Main St. to one meter base rate.

Passed unanimously.

3. Discussion/Decision on investment proposal. (Heyenga/Haider Ajina)

Heyenga introduced the item, noting City Accountant Deborah Brooks cash flow amounts and the proposal from Smith Barney. Mr. Ajina explained the investment "ladder" and answered questions about his proposal.

Council questions:

Cuthbertson: how much money for investment is in the Police Department? Ajina: maybe \$100,000.

Bowman: how do you know what and how much to invest in? Ajina: Code defines what a City can invest in and for no longer than five years.

Marlow: what do we do when a note matures? Ajina: reinvest or use the money, depending on Council decision.

Bowman: aren't we tying up money and potentially missing a higher interest rate in the future? **Ajina:** the ladder allows you to reinvest at higher rates and the five-year limit helps with cash flow management.

Public comments/questions:

Public asked questions about where the \$800,000 is now, the role of our Financial Advisor, and the liquidity of the funds.

Council discussion/action:

Motion (Marlow/Lin) to authorize Haider Ajina of Smith Barney to invest \$800,000 in a laddered portfolio and to reinvest the funds in the laddered portfolio as the ~~bonds~~ US government securities (TM) mature.

Passed unanimously.

Further discussion focused on special revenue funds but since we did not have complete information about amounts in each fund no action was taken.

At this point the Council took a 10 minute break. When the Council reconvened they agreed to take the remaining items in different order.

Consent Agenda Item #2

Marlow asked for more information about the Solar Home Tour program. Heyenga explained that the information came from a Redwood Coast Energy Authority meeting and since the Tour was before the next Council meeting he wanted to publicize the event. A flyer and more information is on the City web site.

Public comment:

Stan Binnie offered his home to be included in future Tours.

*Motion (Heyenga/Cuthbertson) to approve the Solar Home Tour Resolution. **Passed unanimously.***

5. Continued discussion on repairing or replacing Town Hall generator. (Lin)

Lin reviewed the prior discussion and noted the repair estimate from Cummins West, Inc. He noted that Chief Thrailkill recommended repairing the generator now.

Council questions: none

Public comment/questions:

Stan Binnie: what does the generator do? Heyenga explained what the generator powered.

Richard Johnson: this generator has nothing to do with the water plant. Lin: that's correct. How long will the new propane tank operate the generator? No one knew.

Mike Morgan: what caused the problem? Cuthbertson: failure to run the generator on a weekly basis.

Council comments/action:

*Motion (Bowman/Cuthbertson) to repair the existing generator using Cummins West, Inc. and authorize \$1607.22 from the Government Building Fund was amended to authorize "up to \$2000. **Passed unanimously.***

9. Discussion/decision on issuing City employee I.D. cards. (Heyenga/Employees)

Heyenga introduced the item.

Council questions: none

Public comment/questions:

Stan Binnie: who gets the cards? Council discussed the question and decided that all employees except uniformed police officers would get the cards.

Motion (Heyenga/Cuthbertson) to authorize the City Clerk to work with the Police Department to design and arrange for the production of City employee I.D. cards for all employees except uniformed police officers.

Passed unanimously.

4. Continued discussion on 2002 Park Bond projects. (Heyenga)

Heyenga proposed that the Council solicit community input of how to allocate the remaining Park Bond Funds.

Council comments:

Cuthbertson: We made a list of projects and prioritized them - we should use that list.

Lin: with the funds already committed we have only \$16,000 left.

There was no public comment and Council took no action.

6. Continued discussion on storage facility for Town Hall. (Heyenga)

Heyenga reviewed the prior discussion and introduced an alternative storage proposal - a screen storage area in the northwest corner of the Hall.

Council discussion focused on the proposed police facility and how storage might impact that design. Bowman noted that he and Tom Odom studied the Hall stage and concluded that storing the tables and chairs under the stage is not feasible. Cuthbertson said that police evidence storage is a problem.

Public comment:

Richard Johnson: Chief Thraikill asked him to help design the facility; he wants to coordinate the storage issue with the Council and asked for a Council contact.

Council discussion/action:

Heyenga volunteered to be the contact with Johnson and the Council agreed by consensus. No other action was taken.

8. Discussion/Decision regarding assignment of Commissionerships. (Heyenga)

Heyenga introduced the item, noting that there were no written guidelines for how to assign Commissionerships when new Councilmembers were elected. The proposal was for two policies on assigning Commissionerships.

No other Councilmembers felt such policies were necessary and the issue of Commissionerships was left to the new Council.

VII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cuthbertson asked Lin about the status of the new sound system for Council meetings. Lin said he has not yet contacted the company but will do so.

Cuthbertson raised the issue of the list of projects for the Water, Public Works, and Integrated Waste Departments. One project, a trailer, has already gone over budget. The issue is how to keep track of such items and whether Council approval is needed for over-budget costs.

Lin said he is writing a grant to help fund portions of the park.

Cuthbertson asked for a report of Lin's attendance at the water conference in southern California.

Cuthbertson asked for a report of Lin's town hall meeting.

Marlow said the City Engineer raised issues of "traffic calming" measures and the Council should consider what traffic calming measures we want.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Heyenga adjourned the meeting at 10:50pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Dean Heyenga
Mayor
09/27/06

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor Pro-Tem