

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Council members in attendance: Binnie, Miller, Heyenga, Bhardwaj.
- City Staff in attendance: City Clerk, Gabriel Adams; Police Chief, Ken Thrailkill; City Attorney, Jeff Guttero; City Engineer, Steve McHaney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bhardwaj: Make #5 a discussion item – no decision.

Lin: Move agenda item #1 to consent.

*Motion (Lin/Heyenga) to approve the agenda as amended. **Passed unanimously.***

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 08, 2006 cc:

November 28, 2006 cc2:

Both sets of minutes will remain in draft. Previous council is unavailable to approve them.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Parks and Recreation, Streets – No commissioner at this time.

Police, Harbor - No commissioner at this time.

Heyenga – Fire, Planning

Planning: No meeting in December.

Lin – Water, Town Hall

Town Hall: Improvement proposals may be submitted until further notice.

Finance - No commissioner at this time.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk/IWMC – Adams: Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Guttero: Nothing to report.

Police Chief – Thrailkill – Announced arrests, service calls, and statistics.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

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

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Authorizing a \$5000 expenditure from the general fund to pay the deductible to replace the damaged police vehicle. (Police Chief)

2. Discussion/Decision on proposal to establish a City-sponsored toddler recreation program. (Heyenga/Parent Group)
This item was moved from the regular agenda to the consent agenda.

Trinidad School teacher Jan West introduced the Trinidad Play Center proposal and the program director Michelle Hasselquist. The City's Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the program. The director will apply for a First-5 grant to support the program and pay administrative costs. The Town Hall will serve as the play center, and the goal of the program is to provide a safe and interactive environment for children.

*Motion (Lin/Heyenga) to approve the consent agenda items 1 & 2. **Passed unanimously.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision on proposal to establish a City-sponsored toddler recreation program. (Heyenga/Parent Group)
Moved to consent agenda.

Mayor Lin selected Carol Rowe to act as meeting monitor.

2. Discussion/Decision regarding submission of the Safe Routes to School Grant. (Council/Engineer)
City Engineer Steve McHaney introduced the grant proposal. He has been working with the traffic calming committee. The committee provided input on the main elements to be included in the application. The application is due January 2nd. The overall concept is to apply for funds to do the sidewalk and ramp work in the underpass area, which could free up some of the Gateway funds for other enhancements. There is also a concentration of improvements right around the school, including an expanded bus turn-out.

The Committee is asking the Council for general concurrence on the overall approach and the general nature of the projects to be included. The projects are very conceptual in nature at this time and if the City receives the funds the details would need to be worked out before plans could be finalized. The amount of funds requested will be approximately \$500,000. There is no application fee.

Geoff Proust, Trinidad School Principal, noted that the committee's primary safety concern was the bust stop area in front of school. Noise, community design, fitness, and public safety concerns were all considered.

Council questions/comments:

Miller: I'm not a fan of speed bumps, but they work. Have we dismissed the speed bump concept? McHaney explained that indeed they may work, but they're expensive to remove. The committee decided that other strategies may better suit the community character.

Lin: Will the list of recommendations be prioritized? Grants are often rejected when proposals aren't refined. The City Engineer should work with the (future) Streets Commissioner to finalize and submit the grant.

Police Chief: The committee recommendations include both physical and psychological deterrents.

Public comment included:

Mike Morgan – Trinidad, Traffic Calming Committee Member

We carefully considered and decided against speed bumps because they tend to urbanize the community. Speed bumps are also hard on commercial vehicles and slow down emergency response times.

Janine Volkmar – Trinidad

My husband and I have asked the City to install sidewalks under the underpass for many years. The first Safe Routes to School grant proposal was denied. What will happen if this application is denied? I request that this Council make a commitment to the City to develop sidewalks whether or not the grant application is accepted.

Brad Twoomey – Trinidad

Permanent electric signs may be overkill for such a short road. Aesthetics should be carefully considered.

Cindi Lindgren – Trinidad

We should make sure that our grant money isn't used for over-building or developing simply because there's money available. Last time I checked, no statistics available indicating the need for traffic safety measures in this area.

*Motion (Lin/Miller) to authorize the City Engineer to work with the future Streets Commissioner to complete and submit the grant application. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Discussion/Decision on proposal for City to share infrastructure costs for library/museum costs. (Heyenga/Joint Planning Group)

Heyenga introduced the proposal. He explained that for several months a committee composed of representatives from the City, Humboldt North Coast Land Trust, Trinidad Museum Society, and Library Planning Committee have been meeting to coordinate multiple projects behind the Chevron Station. The Joint Planning Committee has submitted a proposal for sharing infrastructure costs between the Museum Society and the City.

The Joint Planning Group proposes that the City share the cost of infrastructure improvements that benefit multiple groups. If the City agreed to share the infrastructure costs with the other groups, the City's share would be:

- \$1,421 for septic design & permitting.
- Approximately \$5,050 for septic install and propane tank.
- Half of the costs of installing water lines and electric lines.

The septic system and propane tank will be installed soon. Utility and water lines will be installed probably during construction of the road through the property. The immediate impact on the City budget would be around \$6,500.

Sharing the cost of infrastructure that supports facilities the public will use and enjoy is a legitimate way to spend public funds. When completed the City Park, library, museum, and native plant garden will be attractions of which Trinidad can be justly proud. This proposal has been discussed and proposed by the Joint Planning Group. We hope the City Council agrees to join the effort to make these important community projects a reality.

Council questions/comments:

Lin: What would happen if the City doesn't participate in the cost sharing? The City has many other needs. Have you (Heyenga) considered other priorities? Can we afford this? Who determined that 50% was appropriate? Why limit the funding to infrastructure? Would the Library consider working with the Police Dept?

Heyenga: (To Guttero) Can the City contribute public funds to projects that aren't owned by the City.

Guttero explained that Capital contributions of public funds are legal, as long as they're done properly.

Bhardwaj: This is a wonderful project, but I'm not clear whether the City can afford it. My inclination would be to contribute something to simply show support for the library. However, without a clear understanding of the City's financial picture it will be difficult to commit money to the project at this time.

Miller: Tom Odom reminded me to pay close attention to the City's expenditures, and now is asking us to give money to this project. I'm confused? I desperately want to support this proposal, but share Bhardwaj's concerns.

Public comment included:

Patti Fleischner – Trinidad Museum Society

Water and electricity seem like the most appropriate infrastructure items to work cooperatively on. Regardless of City support, the Museum will get built.

Kathleen Lake – HNCLT: Asked for the City's support.

Roland Johnson – Trinidad Museum Society

The septic system is also a reasonable item to consider for cost sharing. Users of the park will likely use the museums restroom.

Heyenga asked to withdraw this item and bring it back with answers to cost/budget questions raised by the Council. No decision was made.

4. Discussion/Decision on proposal to create two new commissionerships. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that commissionerships are created to fulfill the need of the City government. To meet the expected needs of the next few years, he proposed the creation of two new commissionerships:

I. Commissioner on City and Tribal Relationships

The relationships between the City and local Native American Tribes have increasingly become a significant part of the City Council's activity. The issue is important, complex, and demands a full understanding of the historical and cultural backgrounds as well as sensitivity in interacting with people of different cultures. This Council will face complicated decisions involving the Tsurai Study Area in the future.

Responsibilities of the Native American Tribal Relations Commissioner shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Management of the Tsurai Study Area: Including, but not limited to:
 - a. Participation in Tsurai Study Area Management Plan discussions
 - b. Participation in site protection/preservation/restoration projects
 - c. Negotiation to resolve the TSA ownership issue
 - d. Resolution of vegetation management in the Tsurai Study Area and view protection issue
2. Relationship with Trinidad Rancheria and Yurok Tribes
 - a. Take part in the monthly Rancheria Tribal Council meeting
 - b. Coordinate projects with Rancheria-Scenic Drive maintenance, water supply and law enforcement.
 - c. Interactions with the Yurok Tribe
3. Implementation of policy 69 and SB 18 consultations.
4. Initiation of activities that improve the understanding of Native American culture.

Since the responsibility of this new commissionership is particularly large, the commissioner should seek assistance from other Council members and staff when needed.

II. Commissioner on Health and Human Service

The main responsibility of a city government is to provide service to meet the need of its people. Among those who need help most are the aged and the economically disadvantaged populations. Trinidad community has a high percentage of seniors, at least twice the state's average. We also have a significance number of low income population residents. The mean household income of all the communities surrounding are all below 80% of the state's average which is the official definition of an "Economically Disadvantaged Community".

I believe that the City should provide some additional service to these groups of residents in our Greater Trinidad Communities. The role of the City should be on promoting and supporting volunteer programs that serve this purpose. The City can help in creating and supporting programs such as the Food Pantry for the needy and Village Keeper for the seniors. However, the City should not take over and run the programs. To do so not only would over-extend the City's resources but also would diminishes volunteerism.

The function of proposed Commissioner should be the promotion and provide support to these programs, including actively solicit volunteers to start new programs or to participate in on-going programs, help in organizing the programs and assist in seeking funding for these programs. The City, on the other hand, can provide existing facilities such as free use of Town Hall, and the use of City's website to publicize programs' events.

Council questions/comments:

Binnie: The new commissionerships will be valuable to the community. However, we might be overloaded with responsibilities. We should consider consolidating or perhaps dropping a few less important commissionerships.

Heyenga: I support the tribal commissionership. I have questions about Health & Human Services. The City is responsible for Trinidad, not the county. The 2000 census states that 80% of Trinidad is under the age of 64. The Tribal Commissionership will take an incredible amount of time to fulfill. Various community organizations already provide the proposed services.

Lin: The senior population in Trinidad is twice the state average. Trinidad is a community, not an isolated city. I'm not proposing to take over the services. This is an attempt to nourish them through support and coordination, not with money.

Miller: What's important is that we listen, not talk. I can't take a position until I hear from the public. The role of the Health & Human Service Commissioner is to act as a liaison, not a manager.

No public comment

- *Motion (Lin/Heyenga) to approve creating the Tribal Relationship Commissionership.*
Passed unanimously.
- *Motion (Lin/Miller) to approve creating the Health & Human Services Commissionership.*
Passed 4-1. No-Heyenga.

Mayor Lin appointed Mike Morgan to act as meeting monitor.

5. Discussion/Decision on approving funds for a workshop on City planning for wireless services. (Bhardwaj)
Bhardwaj introduced the item. She explained that the community of Trinidad should consider developing a plan for wireless service. During the past year, there has been discussion of cellular services in Trinidad. Three important issues are:
1. How can the City insure that our citizens receive good wireless services?
 2. How can the City maximize its cash flow through permitting, leasing and taxing cellular facilities?
 3. How can the City preserve its regulatory control of cellular sites, in spite of new legislation that limits local zoning authority?

The proposal is to hire a consulting firm to visit Trinidad and conduct a workshop that will answer those questions.
Council questions/comments:

Binnie: I support getting this information. If we can provide service in a different way, we should be productive and consider all the alternatives. We need to protect ourselves from being taken advantage of.

Heyenga: \$4000 sounds unreasonably high for a 1.5 hour workshop. Maybe we should first consider joining their mailing list.

City Attorney Guttero: My job is to provide legal protection to the City. I'm concerned with perception of bias against the industry. Plan Wireless is definitely an interest group. If the City decides to hold the workshop, it should also invite a representative from the industry. The constituency should be given a both sides of the argument and will be better equipped to give the council direction.

Public comment included:

Tom Odom – Trinidad

The Coastal Commission recommended that the City develop a Trinidad Head Management Plan. Maybe the Council should consider spending its time and resources on that before hiring this consultant.

Cyndi Lindgren – Trinidad

Applauded Bhardwaj for considering all technological alternatives, and looking for outside consultation from public advocates.

Mike Morgan & Carol Rowe – Trinidad

Agreed with Lindgren.

Brad Twoomey – Trinidad

Supports actively engaging in discussions that involve wireless alternatives for Trinidad and Trinidad Head. The City should cultivate leverage that it has over the industry. A deluxe wireless transmission plan for the City should be explored. The open space of Trinidad Head should be restored and preserved.

No decision was made.

6. Council discussion/questions regarding Commissionerships. (Council)
Discussion only. No decision was made.
7. Discussion/Decision to amend City Municipal Code by changing meeting and date of regular Council meetings. (Lin)
Mayor Lin explained that according to the Trinidad Municipal Code Section 2.04.010, the City has two regular Council meetings each month. The meetings are held on second Wednesday and fourth Tuesday of each month and both meetings start at 7:30 PM. This arrangement has two problems:

1. Because the two meetings are not on the same day of the week, the public has some difficulty keep track with the meeting date.
2. Starting at 7:30 causes the meetings to run late. The Citizen's Committee on Meeting Procedures recommends moving the meetings to an earlier starting time.

Mayor Lin proposed that Municipal Code Section 2.04.010 be amended to read:

2.04.010. Regular Meetings. A. Time. The city council should hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each and every month at the hour of seven p.m.; provided, that when the day fixed for any regular meeting of the council falls upon a date designated by law as a legal or national holiday, such meeting shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day not a holiday".

Council comments/questions:

Heyenga: The ordinance should note that the meeting time be set by resolution. This will enable to amend the time and date much easier - and less expensively – than if set by ordinance. Further, when the Council created the second regular meeting, it deliberately chose Tuesday due to conflicts with other community group meetings and Monday night football. The Lions Club meets in the Club Room on the 4th Wednesday.

Lin: The Town Hall is available on the second and 4th Wednesdays. Council members must prioritize their commitment to the City and arrange their schedules around City meetings.

Bhardwaj, Miller, & Binne supported the proposal.

City Attorney Guttero offered to review the draft ordinance free-of-charge.

*Motion (Lin/Heyenga) to approve amending Municipal Code section 2.04.010, designating regular City Council meeting dates and times to be set by resolution. **Passed unanimously.***

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- Council meeting ended at 10:55pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor