

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00. Present were Councilmembers Binnie, Bhardwaj, Lin, and Miller.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lin led the Pledge.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion (Lin/Miller) to approve the agenda, passed unanimously.

**IV. AGENDA ITEM**

1. Discussion/Decision on choosing a procedure to fill a vacancy on the City Council. (Lin)

Mayor Lin explained that there are two ways to fill the vacancy left by Councilmember Dean Heyenga's resignation. Within 30 days of the vacancy, the Council must either appoint a replacement, or call for an election to fill the vacancy. The election would be held on the next regular election date, but not sooner than 114 days from the call for the election, to allow time for a campaign. There is a cost (unspecified) to the City in holding an election.

Council Clarification

**Miller:** Wondered if the 114 day timeline would allow the vacancy to be filled in the next regularly scheduled election, which is May. Mayor Lin said he thought it would be necessary to wait until November.

**Binnie:** How will Commissionerships be handled when the new person is chosen?. Lin: We will decide this later.

Public Questions/Comments

**Vicky Farmer:** Wondered if the Council would consider a person from outside the City limits, possibly Patti Fleschner.

**Mayor Lin:** State law requires Councilmembers to be City residents.

**Mike Morgan:** Would the Councilmember be appointed by the Mayor, or voted on by the Council? Mayor Lin: The Council will vote.

Council Discussion/Action

**Miller:** Visualizes an "open" process, in which interviews are conducted in public. Several questions would be provided to the candidates in advance, perhaps up to six, and each applicant might be asked to answer 3 or 4 of them. Councilmembers and the public would be able to ask the candidates those question, or others. The public would participate in the interview, and give input on the selection, before the Council voted.

**Lin:** The vacancy would be posted for two weeks, then the public interviews would be held, then the Council nominates and votes. Due to time constraints, it may be difficult to provide questions and give applicants time for advance preparation.

*Motion (Lin/Miller) that the Council appoint a replacement for former Councilmember Heyenga.*

**Passed unanimously.**

**V. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Jim Cuthbertson:** Described three posts cemented into the entrance to the trail that is entered through John Frame's driveway. He said that the posts require a permit, since they are permanently attached to the ground and therefore qualify as structures. He said that they violate the agreement between Frame and the City that ended the litigation. Mr. Cuthbertson would like this situation discussed as an agenda item, so that the Council can decide how to handle it.

**Glenn Saunders:** Described the City Cemetery as being in “terrible condition” during a recent funeral. He reported the situation to Gabe and a City employee came and cleaned it up. He asked for an agenda item to address maintenance of the Cemetery, which needs regular attention. Councilmember Binnie asked for a description of the problem. Mr. Saunders described leaves, branches, moss, etc. scattered about, covering and obscuring the names on the gravesites.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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**Kathy Bhardwaj**  
Councilmember

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**Chi-Wei Lin**  
Mayor