

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Fulkerson, Davies. ***Bhardwaj was absent.***
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Karen Suiker, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Engineer Josh Wolf

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – No closed session scheduled.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2013 cc2

Motion (Davies/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as written. Passed 3-0.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Fulkerson: HTA, Library, and RREDC reports.

Miller: Unable to attend May and June Council meetings in person, but will participate via telephone.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Tom Odom – Trinidad

Thanked the City Manager for all the work and accomplishments achieved in moving the Library lease forward.

Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad

Received the OWTS mailer. Program implementation fees are confusing.

Steve Edmiston - Parent of Trinidad School kids

Asked if the Council would consider moving their June meeting to the School library so the 8th grade class could use the Town Hall for their graduation party. 3 other parents thanked the Council for considering the proposal.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for February 2013.
2. Staff Activities Report for March 2013.
3. Supplemental Budget to Cover Legal Expenses Related to Litigation filed by Tsurai Ancestral Society.
4. Lease between the City and Trinidad Coastal Land Trust for Library Site.
5. Support for Legislation on Statewide Earthquake Early Warning System in California.

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

X. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation on Trinidad's Strong Cities Profile.

City Manager Suiker explained that Trinidad was recently profiled as part of the ongoing Strong Cities / Strong State campaign highlighting local government success stories throughout California. This is a project of the League of California Cities and the California City Management Foundation.

Suiker presented the City of Trinidad's profile: www.strongcitiesstrongstate.com/city/trinidad.

Trinidad Chamber President Dennis Koutouzou announced that Trinidad won the "Best Tourist Attraction in the County" a Times-Standard Reader Award last month.

The Council thanked Suiker for coordinating with the League of Cities to make this happen.

No decision made. Presentation item only.

2. Discussion/Decision regarding Azalea & Pacific project award and consideration of new street light.

City Manager Suiker explained that the City had a very good response to the bid solicitation for the Azalea and Pacific State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This project will rehabilitate Azalea Way and Pacific Street to bring the roads up to City standards, provide better emergency vehicle access and improve the road drainage facilities.

The improvements include roadway widening and paving, installation of curb and gutters, concrete connections between the new paved roadway and adjacent existing residential concrete driveways, drainage swales, subsurface drainage systems, street signs and trees. Azalea Way will be widened from approximately 9 feet to 20 feet, as required to comply with the California Fire Code, and paved with asphalt concrete and grass pavers. Pacific Street's graveled surface will be replaced with an asphalt concrete paved surface that will generally follow the same extents as the graveled surface.

Improvements also include the replacement of an existing 2-inch water line and addition of a new fire hydrant. The project is generally limited to work within the City Right of Way with the exception of minor driveway transitions to the newly paved roadway.

Construction capital and construction engineering for the project is funded through the STIP, which was allocated by the California Transportation Commission in October of 2012.

Because of the favorable bid response, there may be sufficient funds to incorporate a new streetlight as has been requested by residents in the immediate area. This may require an amendment to the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and, assuming the City Council supports staff efforts in this direction, would be considered as a separate project.

Public comment included:

Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad

Give them their streetlight. **Tom Odom** agreed.

Council comments included:

Miller: I support the families who feel the need to have a streetlight in their neighborhood. Some studies show that they reduce crime by 21%. I do however, value less light pollution, but in this case, I'll defer to opinion of the people who live on that street.

Fulkerson: I will only support adding a light fixture if it is the same, or similar to the new ones installed on Trinity and Main Streets.

*Motion (Miller/West) to award the project to GR Sundberg in the amount of \$223,775, and authorize staff to initiate the process to install a new street light, including a CDP amendment if necessary, and work with PG&E to develop a cost estimate. **Passed 4-0.***

3. Discussion/Decision regarding consideration of policy for placement of banners on city street lights.

City Manager Suiker explained that the City has been approached by a representative from the Fishermen's Wives Association for permission to place banners on City streetlights. These would be the same banners that are currently in place near the fishermen's terminal in Eureka. This proposal was considered by the Council in November 2011, with action taken to approve an allocation of \$500 for the banner hardware, involve the Chamber of Commerce in determining and/or administering the banner specifics and to not waive the \$750 design review fee. The \$750 fee is a deposit toward staff review and report to the Planning Commission for design review and consideration, with any resulting decision appealable to the City Council.

To facilitate the Planning Commission review, it would be appropriate to establish guidelines regarding the length of posting, banner dimensions, content limitations, cost responsibility and purpose of banner placement. Toward that end staff can put together a proposed policy based on a survey of other communities, and is

seeking direction from the Council as to whether this is something the Council wants to consider and if so, an appropriate length of time for any such banner replacement. In keeping with the Council action in 2011, input from the Chamber of Commerce would additionally be solicited. The proposal from the Fishermen's Wives Association is for placement of banners from approximately May 1 through Labor Day.

Public comment included:

Tom Odom – Trinidad

I support hanging the banners. They celebrate fishing in Trinidad, and this is a fishing town.

Susan Rotwein – Trinidad

If the Council is able to determine the specifics (size, content, etc.) then why would we need Planning Commission approval? Fishing is the heart of the community. It is our industry, and culture.

Richard Johnson – Planning Commission

We can streamline the process.

Dennis Koutousous – Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

Banners would be a nice edition to the town. If there are time limits, banners would come and go. Guidelines are necessary. If a group only wants 2 banners up, paying \$750 for planning review is too much. Banners should not advertise commercial interests.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: It is important to make sure the banners are sized appropriately. Issues that need to be addressed should be pole selection, time-frame, installment costs, content restrictions, and viewshed concerns.

Miller: Reviewed multiple cities websites for banner policies and explained. Commercial businesses are prohibited from advertising on public banner spaces. Only civic, community, and non-profits should be allowed to post banners. I volunteer to be on a subcommittee to develop guidelines, and support tabling the decision, relying on good judgment, and trying a pilot project. **West** offered to join Miller on the policy/procedure subcommittee.

Davies: The policy could become a slippery slope if it isn't worded correctly.

Motion (Davies/West) to appoint Miller and West to a subcommittee to assist the City Manager in developing a banner placement policy. **Passed 4-0.**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor