

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Fulkerson, Baker, Davies.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Karen Suiker, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Engineer Josh Wolf, City Planner Trever Parker.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Existing/Pending Litigation against the City of Trinidad, Government Code section 54956.9(b) and/or section 54956.95, from the Tsurai Ancestral Society.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

No report out from closed session.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Pull #5 Van Wyke Trail for further discussion.
 - Pull \$6 VDU for further discussion.
- Motion (Miller/Davies) to approve the agenda as amended. **Passed unanimously.***

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 09, 2014 cc

Minutes were not prepared in time for this meeting.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

West: HCAOG; Deferred to item 2 on the agenda.

Miller: Announced the Coast Guard Housing site on Trinidad Head transfer ceremony to the BLM scheduled for Friday, May 16.

Davies: Nothing to report.

Baker: Nothing to report.

Fulkerson: Announced that \$300,000 has been raised so far by the county to lure in a new airline carrier, but more is needed, up to one million. Also read a letter from a resident thanking the Council for quick action installing a dog-doo station at the harbor beach.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Patti Fleschner – Trinidad Civic Club

Announced the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony at the Lighthouse.

Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad

Thanked the Sheriff for quick response on a complaint filed today regarding an issue that occurred on the Wagner Street Trail between himself and resident John Frame. Asked the Council to step up and straighten out the issue.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for March 2014.
2. Sheriff Activity Report for April 2014.
3. Authorize the City Manager to sign Memorandum of Agreement with the Trinidad Rancheria for supplemental funding for the Trinidad Waste Water System Upgrade Project.
4. Treasury Cash and Investments Report.
5. Project Study Report and Active Transportation Program Grant Application for Van Wycke Trail Repair.
PULLED FOR DISCUSSION...

Mayor Fulkerson recused herself from the discussion. City Engineer Josh Wolf explained the project proposal. The funds being sought are through an active transportation grant, so utility relocation is not the focus. Residents Jim Cuthbertson supported fixing it. Resident Kim Tays suggested using low profile solutions to protect coastal resources. Josh Wolf indicated that the fix would more than likely require a robust soldier pile wall to ensure stability.

Motion (West/Davies) to approve consent agenda item 5 as recommended. Passed 4-0. Fulkerson abstained.

6. Vacation Dwelling Unit (VDU) Ordinance Update.
7. Emergency Operations Plan Update.
8. Authorize City Manager to sign the amended grant agreement to extend the Watershed Coordinator position through December 31, 2014.

Motion (Davies/Baker) to approve the consent agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.

X. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Discussion/Decision regarding Contract with Sheriff for Law Enforcement Services.

City Manager Suiker explained that at the City Council meeting of January 8, 2014, the Council took action to appoint Councilmembers Davies and Baker to work with staff to consider renegotiation of the law enforcement services contract. The current contract will expire June 30, 2014. This working group has met and guided the negotiation process, and we have now arrived at a proposed contract that is recommended for approval. Highlights of that contract are:

1. One full-time assigned deputy with year round working hours Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The deputy will be reporting to and from the main station in Eureka to participate in briefings and coordinate activity and information with other officers.
2. The assigned deputy will adjust his/her schedule to cover identified special events, including the 4th of July, Fish Festival, Clam Beach Run, Halloween and Summer Art Night events. In the event the assigned Deputy Sheriff is not available, the county will provide a replacement for that event.
3. In order to provide for the opportunity for council and/or the public to weigh in on and evaluate law enforcement services, the agreement provides that a representative of the Sheriff, at the rank of Lieutenant or higher, upon request by the City, shall meet quarterly with the public, "either in a special meeting or at a council meeting to discuss city policing issues."
4. The assigned deputy shall be issued a cell phone available to the public, at the expense of the City.
5. A magnetic emblem that represents the City shall be affixed to the patrol vehicle during assigned shifts, at the expense of the City.
6. As is the case with the existing contract, this is a three year agreement; however, either party can terminate upon sixty day's written notice.
7. The current soon-to-expire contract provides for the equivalent of 1-1/2 assigned deputies. Due to difficulties with accounting for and tracking the hours of a half-time deputy assignment, the sheriff is unwilling to agree to a similar arrangement, and the new agreement provides for one full-time deputy. Supplemental services can be arranged (with a minimum of fifteen day's notice), for a minimum of 8 consecutive hours at the hourly rate as per the county's published fee schedule (currently \$90/hour). The intent of the working group is to budget an amount equivalent to 8 hours each week for 52 weeks, and flex the working days and working hours so there is no expectation of predictability.
8. The proposed contract, which would be adjusted each year based on actual staff and support costs, is \$150,634 for the first year. The working group expects to supplement this by 8 hours x 52 weeks x \$90/hour or \$37,440, with a total cost of \$188,074. This compares to the current contract cost of \$182,745.

Public comment included:

Jim Cuthbertson - Trinidad

Commented on his support for new Deputy Wilcox.

Richard Kieselhorst – Trinidad

Also commented and expressed gratitude for new Deputy Wilcox and her immediate contributions to the Volunteer Fire Department and community.

HCSO Lt. Morey: We feel this is a great contract, and the city shouldn't lose sight of the full backing of the county that is always available to the city as a result of the agreement. Sheriff's Office is very happy to be working with the city of Trinidad.

Council thanked the City Manager and Committee for bringing back a successful contract.

*Motion (Miller/West) to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Agreement to Provide Law Enforcement Services within the City of Trinidad. **Passed unanimously.***

2. Discussion/Presentation from the Trinidad Rancheria regarding the Highway 101 Interchange.

City Manager Suiker explained that at their April 17, 2014 meeting, the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) was asked to approve a letter of support for a federal grant application for the design and engineering of the Trinidad Rancheria's proposal for a Highway 101 interchange. In order to meet the grant application deadline, HCAOG approved the support letter "with the condition that the Rancheria expediently meets with Trinidad's City Council". This agenda item is in response to that condition, and will provide for the opportunity for representatives of the Rancheria to share their vision with the Council and interested community members.

Suiker introduced Robert Hemstead, Vice Chair of the Trinidad Rancheria. Hemstead explained that various safety and structural concerns with Scenic Drive have prompted the Rancheria to propose the interchange concept to ensure safe access to their community and facility. He further explained that there is NO design yet to approve, and that this grant (if approved) would provide the Rancheria with resources to develop concept options. It does not fund any other enterprise or housing plans for the Rancheria.

Public comment included:

Victoria Sackville – Trinidad

What more is there to come? A hotel? Gas Station?

Hemstead responded, assuring the Council that a gas station will "inevitably" be built, but that the interchange is still years away.

Richard Johnson – Trinidad

The Rancheria is a large water user. The Moss subdivision project was controversial due to concerns that the city's water supply was inadequate to support further development. We think that the City is built out. Planning says there are approximately 40 buildable lots. We urge the Council to request that the City Engineer review the Moss Subdivision water supply analysis and how it might influence the Rancheria's grand plan. It would also be helpful to fully understand the Rancheria's timeline.

Kelly Lindgren – Trinidad Area Resident

We have property that we access through the Rancheria, and are concerned with how the interchange might impact access to our property.

Council comments were focused on the purpose of tonight's meeting, which was only to hear the Rancheria's presentation and share their vision. Further meetings and discussion will likely occur in the future as the project unfolds. No decisions were made.

3. Discussion/Decision regarding City Manager Resignation and Recruitment.

City Manager Suiker requested that the Council accept her notice of resignation effective July 10, 2014. She expressed that she will be committed to assisting the city in any way during the recruitment and selection of a new manager, and was open to any mutually agreeable arrangement beyond that date to assure a smooth transition and to assure you are not without leadership at any time.

Suiker further expressed that she enjoyed her time in Trinidad and considers herself especially fortunate to have worked with each and every one of you, as well as former council members who no longer serve in that capacity. The citizens of Trinidad are truly fortunate to benefit from the wisdom and patience and dedication of your council as well as the skills and abilities of an outstanding and committed staff. Any and all successes during her tenure are either the direct or indirect result of that quality staff.

Public comment included:

Richard Johnson – Trinidad Area Resident

Suiker has done an outstanding job, and thanked her for her service.

Patti Fleschner – Trinidad

Wished Suiker well and assured her she will be missed.

Mike Morgan – Trinidad

Didn't always agree with Suiker but thanked her for all her help and support.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: Karen's brought an enormous amount of depth and experience to the position and will be greatly missed. Hope to find more local talent as her replacement.

Miller: Would like to see local talent as well, but not limited to it.

*Motion (Davies/Baker) to appoint a subcommittee of Fulkerson & Miller to work with City Manager on posting job ads and descriptions, and proposing June 04 as the next meeting date scheduled to approve budget and get update on recruitment process. **Passed unanimously.***

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor