

City of Trinidad
Minutes
Friday, February 20, 2026, 6:00 PM
Trinidad City Hall, 100 Park Street, Trinidad, Texas 75163

1. Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the mayor. A quorum of the City Council was established.

2. Roll Call: Members present were Marie Bannister, Melvin Thompson, Velma Womack, Leah Melton.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Haws.

4. Citizens Comments:

Sherrie Shuman: stated she was an attorney and had come to her attention that her client Roy Stanfield, Ricky Stanfield, Dennis Walker. There have been remarks regarding theft or impropriety without fully and accurately doing research making remarks on social media. She stated that this letter is a cease and desist on behalf of her client and a letter will be provided to Mayor Dennis Haws specific to Dan Pass. She stated if he refuses to cease and desists removing all of this from social media, she will have no choice but to take legal action.

Fran Estes: spoke about being a resident all her life and her family has served the city for years and her husband served as the Mayor of Trinidad for several years. She stated that months ago she came to realize that her thoughts and opinions were no longer appreciated. So, she stopped attending meetings because to some she had aged out. So, God gave her a special mission to love on the young folks and people to love on them at Trinidad ISD. She stopped by the other day and read the posted agenda about tonight's meeting. What caught her attention was the discussion and appointment of two of the non-resident members. This was troubling to her because they have never lived here and they have the majority vote on citizens that do live here. Further research showed that Ordinance 2022-2008 was adopted December 2022 this was the ordinance pertains to P&Z said that. Mayor Dennis Haws stopped her because 5 minutes was over.

Dusty Bannister: spoke that she was on the agenda for item 12. She stated that this afternoon she went into a panic because she could not find her stuff (papers) for the meeting. She stated she had a contract for the Council included in that stuff. She stated she looked everywhere and could not find it. So, she sent her husband Jerry Bannister to go by the city hall because maybe she left it there. She stated that Jerry was given just her lease/contract that was written all over (talking about the City Administrator Lindsey Patterson) which was not all her stuff. She stated she must have dropped it outside because

that was where it was allegedly found by Lindsey. She stated she then called Marie Bannister who is her mother-in-law who sits on the Council. She stated since we were all about transparency is the reason she called Marie. Marie called the Chief of Police Charles Gregory since it was told to her that it was found in the parking lot. Dusty stated her notebook, her agenda and contract were all together, and the only thing given to her was that one piece of paper. Marie asked Chief Gregory what was found on Camera. Chief Gregory stated that on February 13th at approximately 7:23am there was a bunch of documents and a notebook that was picked up by the City Administrator Lindsey. Lindsey picked it all up and walked into the building with said documents and into her office. Dusty stated she was terribly upset because only one document was turned over to her husband and it was stated that was all that was found and it had been written on. Dusty expressed that Lindsey had been trying to block her agenda for the event committee and was told she had to get an open records request by Lindsey just to see what the Lawyers' recommendations were for the Event committee and that was wrong considering she was a part of the city.

Paul Kern: spoke that recently he resigned from the Council and the P&Z committee due to health issues. Paul stated he wanted to talk about transparency, which is what the council was all about when he first started. Paul stated that was not happening. He stated that he recently took a tour of the water plant with our plant operator Jeremy Crocker. Paul stated in the past since he had been on the council we have been told by the administrator that our water plant is awful and it needed to be replaced. Paul stated that during the tour he expected to see some awful things and all he saw was a functioning water plant. He said the only issue that was brought to his attention was that the previous people to Jermeiy were not doing the job right. He said when they had the issue the other day from Anthony Livingston (previous public works director) what you did not hear was Alex (street department employee) was promised things by the City Administrator. Paul stated he and Lindsey had a conversation the other day. He went on to say that he was a solid guy and even if he does not like you, he treats you with respect and he does not lie. He said it was hard for him to do but he told Lindsey you making decisions that are a little bit weird and off is a problem. He said and I am here to tell your City Administrator has a bad habit of smoking weed. He said it is a problem with her decision making. Mayor Haws asked, "do you have evidence of that and Paul stated yes, she told me that.

Council Members Inquiry Time: Pursuant to Tex Gov. Code Sec. 551.042 the Mayor or Council Members may inquire about a subject not specifically listed on this agenda.

Work Session Reports (No Action Taken)

- **City Administrator Report-** Lindsey discussed her day-to-day operations stating that the CPA runs the finances of the city while she ran the city.
- **Chief of Police Report-** Chief Gregory gave his report of 162 traffic stops, 109 citations, 58 warnings, 47 calls for service, 3 crashes, 4 offense reports, 3 agency assists.

- **Municipal Court Report-** Judge Bivens stated for the month of January the court had 120 new cases that were filed. There were 26 cases that were dismissed after drivers' safety course, 10 cases dismissed after deferred disposition, 1 case dismissed for proof of insurance, 6 cases dismissed for other transportation code violations, 1 case satisfied with jail credit. Total fines, court costs, and other amounts collected for the month \$22,434.00; City keeps \$12,692.00 & \$9,742.00 goes to the state.
- **Water Plant Operator Report-** Jeremy Crocker stated that they replaced a valve on the storage tank, replaced piping on the water tower, replaced piping on the outer tank, also floors and cabinets have been installed at the water plant office. Jeremy discussed several bids that he has gotten for various repairs/upgrades. Jeremy stated his frustration of items he requests to be put on the agenda, and they get brushed off or not put on the agenda. He stated he was supposed to be on the agenda for the city to discuss taking over the wastewater. Jeremy discussed unnecessary expenditures that are being put on the agenda and said that he feels personally attacked that he is supposed to be over the water plant and the city administrator is not listening to him when he states we do not need the expenditures she wants to make.
- **Street Department Report-** No report given (absent)
- **EDC Report-** Lisa Hebrank stated they have been working on their bookkeeping with the CPA. They also received their first payment for passed due tax dollars. She stated they are waiting on the AUDIT report from David Godwin to see where their strengths and weaknesses are. Lisa was asked by Marie Bannister why a citizen was told to quit working on their building and she stated she never did that. Lisa stated that if they do not speak English, she knows someone she can call to translate for him.
- **Planning & Zoning Report-** Jerry Bannister stated they have been working on a lot of items. He announced the town hall meeting coming up in reference to the Manufactured homes. He stated that he has been working with Colby in reference to current ordinances that pertain to permits. He stated their next agenda they have a replat hearing on Tempie Road. Jerry stated that he was working with the Police Chief to come up with a contract with the Humane Society. The P&Z is also looking into a certain ordinance for the city lake.
- **Finance-** Chris Turner (CPA) talked about his daily tasks he does for the city. Mayor Haws spoke with Chris on how important it was for the employees to start getting paid on time. Jeremy Crocker spoke about the city being 30 days passed due on his invoice to the city. Melvin Thompson emphasizes how this costs the city money when we are passed due to these vendors due to late fees. Chris stated he never received the invoice for Aqua services (Jeremy Crocker). Jeremy advised it was sent to Chris and Lindsey. Chief Gregory mentioned the fact that the City of Log Cabin is behind on their bills and payroll as well in which Chris is the CPA. Mayor Haws stopped the discussion about these matters stating we cannot go back in forth about this. Chief Gregory emphasized he was tired of the lies from the City Administrator and the CPA. Chris emphasized that he was receiving invoices late. He went over revenues and expenses stating we were doing well. Chris went over the budget with the council and explained why his budget

looked different than what they were used to. Chris continued to discuss expenses and revenue. The mayor stated to Chris that the city wants a yearly budget not a monthly budget.

Action Items

5. Discussion, consideration, and selection of administration/project delivery service provider(s) for the Homeowner Reconstruction Assistance Program through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Fund from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

John representative spoke on the progress and process of how the grant works to build 5 new homes. He stated we have driven around the city and observed several houses that qualify. He stated he was here to possibly get awarded the contract to proceed with the grant program. Marie Bannister motions to award the contract to the home investment partnership fund. Velma Womack 2nds the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

6. Discussion and consideration of EDC recommendation for Regina Luckey and Chandra Sutton to join the EDC.

Melvin Thompson explained to the crowd that they did pass this in the past that it would allow citizens that live ten miles outside of the city limits to be on this committee. Marie Bannister made motion to accept Regina Luckey and Chandra Sutton to be new members of the EDC. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

7. Discussion and consideration of Planning & Zoning by law changes.

Marie Bannister made a motion to table the Planning & Zoning by law changes. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

8. Discussion and consideration of Scott Hample's resignation from the P&Z.

Marie Bannister made motion to accept Scott Hample's resignation from the P&Z. Melvin Thompson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

9. Discussion and consideration of acceptance of Planning & Zoning applicants Carrie Evans and Heath Haymaker.

Fran Estes stated she doesn't claim to be a Lawyer however she hasn't found records where it hasn't been passed that an ordinance stating that citizens that live 10 miles outside of the city limits can be on the committee. Fran Estes stated there was not an ordinance stating this. It was discovered it was passed but never posted online. It was discussed that the only one voted on was Carrie Evan by the EDC not Heath Haymaker yet. Therefore, Heath Haymaker was not voted on. Marie Bannister made a motion to accept Carrie Evans to the P&Z. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

10. Discussion and consideration of purchase of a laptop and hardware for Planning & Zoning records and meetings.

Jerry Bannister stated they were just trying to get with the modern times. They were requesting a laptop, and some thumb drives that way they can type things such as

minutes and agendas. He stated this would be around \$400.00. Marie Bannister made a motion to purchase the laptop and hardware for P&Z records and meetings. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

11. Review and consideration of a contract between the City of Trinidad and the Event Committee.

Dusty Bannister discussed if they stay a city entity the money must go through the city and then into their account. She went on to say if they became their own entity then they could have meetings when they wanted to and would not have to follow the same guidelines as the other committees do with the city. Dusty stated that the city could go with two options. The city could go with a contract or pass an ordinance. Dusty stated the goal is to become a 501(c)(3) organization but would need money to get started with that process. Dusty discussed her Lease proposal to the City for the Community Center and other City properties. Leah Melton made a motion of a 1-year contract with the city of Trinidad and the event committee. Marie Bannister 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

12. Discussion and consideration of amending current ordinance regarding Conex containers.

Jerry Bannister presented to the Council the amended ordinance created by the P&Z. It was discussed that some changes needed to be made as to how big the container could be. Marie Bannister made a motion to table this ordinance until corrections were made. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

13. Discussion and consideration of a new ordinance regarding data centers, bitcoin farming facilities, and data battery storage facilities.

Marie Bannister made a motion to table this ordinance until proper processes were in place with newspaper and corrected steps are taken. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

14. Discussion and consideration of personnel and job descriptions for Chief of Police Charles Gregory, City Administrator Lindsey Patterson, Public Works Director Anthony Livingston, and Municipal Judge Shellena Bivens.

Council went into Executive Session at approximately 7:48pm.

Council returned to open session at approximately 8:35pm.

The Council started with the Chief of Police, Charles Gregory, stating they are satisfied with his job performance and no action to be taken. No action on Antyhony Livingston due to him resigning. Marie Bannister stated that there was discussion on changes needing to be made to the Judges job description but no action to be taken at this time. Mayor Haws announced the following:

City Council of the City of Trinidad Texas the Council has decided to place the City administrator Lindsey Patterson on administrative leave with pay, effective immediately, pending review of matters requiring further evaluation. Pursuant to the authority granted to the governing body under the Texas Local Government

Code and applicable City ordinances, this action is administrative in nature and is not disciplinary at this time. The leave is intended to allow the City to conduct a thorough and impartial review. During the period of administrative leave:

The mayor stated this would be open to discussion. Marie Bannister stated she had lost all confidence in Lindsey Patterson and does not feel she has served the city in the way it should have been ran. Leah Melton agreed with Marie Bannister. Melvin Thompson stated he believes this is the best move we can make right now going forward at this time. Marie Bannister made a motion to place Lindsey Patterson on Administrative leave with pay, effective immediately, pending review of matters requiring further evaluation. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

Mayor Haws asked Lindsey if she had anything she would like to say about the matter in which she replied, "no." The mayor stated the following:

- 1, you will continue to receive your regular compensation and benefits.
2. You are relieved of all duties and responsibilities as City Administrator unless otherwise directed in writing by the City Council.
- 3, You shall not access City facilities, records, or electronic systems without prior authorization from the Mayor or City Attorney.
4. You must remain available during normal business hours for communications related to this matter.
5. You are directed to preserve all City documents, electronic data, and records.

The mayor then dismissed Lindsey Patterson from the meeting. At that time, the Council appointed the Police Chief as an acting City secretary/City administrator.

Consent Agenda: No minutes to approve.

Adjournment- Marie Bannister made a motion to adjourn. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. 4/0 Motion passed.

Approved on: *March 17, 2024*

Mayor: *Dennis Haws*

Dennis Haws

Interim City Administrator/Secretary: *Cynthia Dosier*

Cynthia Dosier