

CITY OF TRINIDAD

Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.
TRINIDAD CITY HALL, 100 PARK STREET

1. **Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum:** Mayor Dennis Haws called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and established a quorum.

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

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

4. **Visitors/citizens inquiry:**

Dusty Bannister stated that they did get the contract signed with the event center and the city. She stated a copy has been filed with the city as well. She announced that they had Game Night coming up on March 7th at the community center. She also announced that the Easter Event will be on Saturday April 4th at the community center.

Action Items: All the following items on the Action Agenda are discussed by the council and will be individually enacted upon with a motion:

1. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Tex Gov't Code, to deliberate, appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of employees.**
 - Lindsey Patterson

Mayor Haws advised Lindsey she had the right to have her meeting with the council in open session, or they could still convene into executive session. Lindsey stated she wanted to do the meeting in executive session.

The council went into executive session at 6:06pm.

2. **Convene into open session to take action as appropriate in the Council's direction regarding appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of employee:**
 - Lindsey Patterson

The council returned to an open session at 6:12pm. No discussion was made.

Marie Bannister made a motion to remove/terminate Lindsey Patterson for lack of confidence. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. The mayor then polled the council members as follows:

Velma Womack: Yes

Melvin Thompson: Yes

Leah Melton: Yes

Marie Bannister: Yes

Motion passed 4/0.

Lindsey Patterson gave a statement. Just so the record is clear I have not received any disciplinary action. So just to make sure this is made clear I'm being terminated without cause? Mayor Haws stated that is correct. Lindsey stated that her last statement: during her time here as administrator, I have raised plenty of operational, financial and compliance concerns. I have raised these concerns in good faith and within my administrative duties. I believe that transparency and lawful operations protect Trinidad and its taxpayers, and its employees. I am so very appreciative of the residents and the staff that have supported the same.

3. **Discuss and take action to appoint an interim City Administrator/Secretary:**

- **Cynthia Dosier**

No discussion.

Leah Melton made a motion to ratify, confirm and approve the appointment of Chief Gregory as Interim City Administrator/Secretary from February 23rd, 2026 - February 27th, 2026. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

Marie Bannister made a motion to appoint Cynthia Dosier Interim City Administrator/Secretary. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

4. **Discuss and consider, and possible action to remove Lindsey Patterson from financial accounts.**

No discussion.

Marie Bannister made a motion to remove Lindsey Patterson from all financial accounts. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

5. **Discuss, consider, and possible action to authorize Cynthia Dosier, and Leah Melton on financial accounts.**

Leah Melton confirmed that it is just in addition to Velma Womack and Dennis Haws. Mayor Haws confirmed that is correct.

Marie Bannister made a motion to authorize Cynthia Dosier and Leah Melton to the financial accounts. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

6. **Discuss, consider, and take action to accept Paul Kern resignation from the city council.**

Paul Kern was not there to speak.

No discussion made.

Marie Bannister made a motion to accept Paul Kern resignation from the city council. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

7. **Discuss and consider possible action regarding amendment of the City's agreement with Aqua Services to provide water and wastewater operation services to ensure regulatory compliance.**

Jeremy Crocker spoke on his proposed contract. Jeremy Crocker stated the city isn't compliant with the wastewater because no one with the city holds the proper licenses. Jeremy stated the city manpower wasn't suffice either. So, what he would like to offer is for him to not only be over the water plant but also take over the wastewater distribution system as well. He stated his company holds the licenses, has the equipment, and the manpower the city needs. Jeremy stated this contract would be in addition to what services he already offers the city. Melvin asked what kind of equipment it would take to change out lift stations? Jeremy stated there would have to be an excavator come in to do these jobs and that fee was included in the contract the council was given. Jeremy stated the original quote would have been \$100k a year, however they decided to drop it down to \$85k and give the city a break due to equipment. Melvin asked what method of payment the city was paying him currently. He stated he has received multiple ways. He has received a check, ACH, etc. He stated he preferred ACH, but check was fine and they were not picky. Chief Gregory confirmed that the website would be updated to Aqua Services number for after-hour water services should the council approve this. Marie asked what the class was that Alex Estrada (city employee) was scheduled for? Jeremy advised that it was a 30-hour Basic Wastewater course and that Alex would not have to do this class if his Aqua Services took over. Leah Melton asked if any of Aqua Services employees needed the class and Jermey advised they schedule all their own classes. Melvin stated this would free the street guys from wastewater and they would be able to focus more on streets. Jeremy stated that the guys would be free for that and they would also still be over reading meters. Jeremy stated once they get the radio-controlled meter readers in our employees wouldn't have to do that anymore either. Melvin discussed that this would free the street guys up tremendously to be able to deal with potholes, mowing etc. Leah Melton asked Jeremy if he was being paid on time and he stated he did get paid recently. Melvin

asked the depth of the excavation. Jeremy stated everything was going to be 4 feet until you get to sewer, because it could be tricky and get up to as much as 15 feet. Mayor Haws asked how Aqua Services does after hours' work. Jeremy stated they have been coming out very frequently 1 time a week at least for the water plant. Jeremy stated if you're ever without water or sewage backed up and on city side that would be when his company would come out. Jeremy stated they try to handle as much as possible between 7a-3p, that way they're not running the time up. Melvin asked what would the customer service inspection be like? Jeremy stated that any time someone just moves in the inspect the water. He stated previously Trinidad hired a guy from Malakoff to do this, but his company offers this service as well. Mayor Haws asked if Jeremy Crocker and Melvin Thompson were related and stated it's not a problem, but he wanted to know. Melvin stated when Aqua services originally was voted in, he abstained his vote due to them being related. Melvin stated that when they vote on anything to do with Aqua Services, he would abstain his vote. No further discussion by the council.

Marie Bannister made a motion to approve the amendment of the City's agreement with Aqua Services to provide water and wastewater operation services to ensure regulatory compliance. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Councilman Melvin Thompspon abstained. Motion passed 3/0.

8. Discuss and consider amending ordinance 2019-005 water/wastewater rates, with new ordinance 2025-003 water/wastewater rates.

No discussion.

Marie Bannister made a motion to amend ordinance 2019-005 water/wastewater rates, with new ordinance 2025-003 water/wastewater rates. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

9. Discuss and consider amending ordinances 2021-005 Section V #7 storage containers, with new ordinance 2026-005 Conex Boxes/Storage Containers.

Jerry Bannister asked that the council table this matter until the P&Z can either locate hard copies/originals to amend or create. Jerry asked that we do a variance on this matter for the Trinity Baptist Church. Melvin asked what if we don't find the original ordinances. Jerry stated if there was never a hard copy we would have to post it in the paper, letters go out, and then we do public hearing and vote. Mayor Haws stated we should wait on the church right now and just follow the proper steps for everyone. Melvin states that without having the variance on the agenda for the church we should wait till next meeting and have them on the agenda. Cynthia Dosier advised that we cannot post in the paper without adopting a paper as well.

Marie Bannister made a motion to table amending ordinances 2021-005 Section V #7 storage containers, with new ordinance 2026-005 Conex Boxes/Storage Containers. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

10. Discuss, consider, and take action on by-laws for Planning and Zoning Committee.

Jerry Bannister stated they made a change to the by-laws article 2 section 3 to terms of office. Jerry read the council the change. No discussion.

Marie Bannister made the motion to approve the amendment on by-laws for Planning and Zoning Committee. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

11. Discuss, consider, and take action on Scada operating system for water plant operations.

Jeremy discussed the Software and explained that it was outdated. The program he is trying to go with Scada is a lot more reasonable in Price than the current program we use now. Jeremy discussed the Improvements and success they have had with the water in the city. No discussion.

Leah Melton motioned to approve the on Scada operating system for water plant operations. Marie Bannister 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

12. Discuss, consider, and take action regarding ordering automatic flushing valves for the water department.

Jeremy stated what they are trying to do is go a chemical route to coat the pipes in the ground to keep the metal particles/rust from dirtying up the water. In the meantime, he stated that what they're finding is the water pressure is falling and the only way to fix this is to run the water hard and fast as possible. In a sense the city doesn't have enough flush valves. What they want to do is start installing flush valves. Melvin asked how many areas do we need to do that too. Jeremy stated approximately 30. Melvin asked the ones we already have can we move those into other areas. Jeremy replied with you can however, only the ones for fire hydrants. The ones they are trying to get are fixed and they are roughly \$500 apiece. Jeremy stated you program them like water sprinklers. Edward Polk asked if that would affect the water table in the lake. Melvin advised Edward that the lake is fed by Cedar Creek Lake. Jeremy proposed that we buy \$2000 and his guys would put them in for free. And we would move forward as we go.

Marie Bannister made a motion to approve ordering automatic flushing valves for the water department. Velma Womack 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

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 the agenda.

Responses are limited to a recitation of existing policy, or statement of specific information given in response to the inquiry:

The mayor discussed making a posting for the empty council seat. Discussion was made on the class Alex was enrolled in for Basic Wastewater.

Consent Agenda: No minutes to approve.

Adjournment- Motion made by Marie Bannister to Adjourn the meeting. Leah Melton 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

Approved on: *March 17, 2026*

Mayor: *Dennis Haws*

Dennis Haws

Interim City Administrator/Secretary: *Cynthia Dosier*

Cynthia Dosier