

Notice of Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

**September 10, 2026, 6:00 PM
100 Park Street, Trinidad, TX 75163, US**

Opening

A.1. Call to Order, Quorum Determined, Meeting Declared Open

Mayor Dennis Haws called the Special Meeting of the Trinidad City Council to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at Trinidad City Hall, 100 Park Street, Trinidad, Texas. Notice was given that a quorum of the Economic Development Corporation and the Planning & Zoning Commission may be in attendance.

Present: Mayor Dennis Haws, Council Member Velma Womack, Council Member Steven Stearman, Council Member Leah Melton, Mayor Pro Tem Marie Bannister

A.2. Invocation

The invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Haws.

A.3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were recited.

Citizen Comments

B.1. Visitors / Citizens Inquiry

No citizens signed up for public comment. No members of the public wished to speak.

Action Items

C.1. Introduction and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2026-9-1

The City Attorney Brandon Shelby advised the Council that while the ordinance calling the November 3, 2026 general election was technically due 78 days prior to the election (August 17, 2026), ordering the election late does not void or cancel the election.

Passage of the ordinance was necessary to proceed with the joint election agreement with the Henderson County Elections Administrator. The Council proceeded to adopt the ordinance.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-9-1 was made by Council Member Steven Stearman and seconded by Council Member Leah Melton. The motion carried unanimously.

C.2. Recommendation from Water Committee

Council Member Stearman presented the Water Committee's recommendation regarding the lease of turbidity meters and chlorine analysis equipment from Hach Company, 5600 Lindbergh Drive, Loveland, CO 80539-0389. The recommendation arose from a directive by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to replace existing equipment that is no longer supported by the manufacturer and for which reagents and software updates would be discontinued.

The proposal consists of two separate service agreements totaling approximately \$1,821 per month over a three-year term, with a buyout option at the end of the term. This replaces an existing service agreement of approximately \$1,200 per month for aging, unsupported equipment. The lease structure was preferred over an outright purchase of approximately \$78,000, as it includes ongoing servicing, reagent replenishment, and quarterly inspections by the manufacturer, as well as the flexibility to return or roll over equipment at term's end.

Mayor Pro Tem Marie Bannister raised a concern regarding the timing of the Water Committee's meeting the prior evening, questioning whether the public had adequate

notice. The City Attorney clarified that the Water Committee, as a purely advisory body composed of appointed rather than elected members, is not subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act's posting requirements. The relevant posting obligation applied to the City Council meeting itself, which was properly noticed. The agenda was posted with sufficient specificity to inform the public that action on the Water Committee's recommendation would be considered.

Motion to accept the Water Committee's recommendation and approve both lease agreements with Hach Company was made by Council Member Steven Stearman and seconded by Council Member Velma Womack. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

D.1. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2026 Special Called Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marie Bannister and seconded by Council Member Leah Melton. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Inquiry

E.1. Council Member Inquiry Time

No inquiries were raised.

Adjournment

F.1. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marie Bannister and seconded by Council Member Velma Womack. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved on 10/20/26



Mayor: Dennis Haws
Dennis Haws

Interim City Administrator/Secretary: Michelle Webb
Michelle Webb