

# CITY OF TRINIDAD

## Minutes

Thursday, September 4, 2025

A special session of the governing body of the City of Trinidad was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall in Trinidad, Texas, at which time the following subjects were discussed:

1. **Call to order:** Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Members present were Jeff McClintock, Marie Bannister, Melvin Thompson and Velma Womack.
3. **Invocation:** Invocation was led by Lindsey Patterson.
4. **Citizen Comments:**
  - Sue Butler – Stated that she was not impressed with the email that the city administrator email being that she didn't show up for the first Tuesday of each month and that someone needed to be present to let the committee in. In the email it stated that the city administrator needed to tell the committee what was going to be on the agenda, not the committee telling her what she be on the agenda. Sue Butler stated that she didn't approve of the city spending \$24000 to spend on a municipal CPA when the payroll has always been done in by the city secretary. She stated that the city was in much more need of a code enforcer and code compliance more than a CPA. Sue Butler continued on to say that she disagrees with the proposed change to ordinance to include persons with a vested interest in the city that lives within 10 miles of the city. Sue Butler states that we shouldn't have an outsider making decisions about the city. She states that she doesn't why we would approve anyone that isn't in the city limits.
  - **Council convenes into executive session at 6:28 pm**
  - **Council returns from executive session at 7:11**
5. **Item 6 – Hiring Chirstopher Turner – Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis** addresses the financials explains that it is known that the city administrative work, and has also been doing secretary and accounting work. It's too complicated to have all those roles are done by one person. There have been things that have been missed, and the city is in a bind. He wants to rein in the spending and to understand the finances. The third party would not have city benefits or self-serving interests and he feels this is the right way forward. Clayton Gaddis explains that there have been Significant oversensitive in the last 3 years alone that Marie Banister. Clayton Gaddis explains that the previous auditor did not explain anything specific about where the finances went. There were questions about what the CPA does. The Auditor that was present, David Godwin stood up and explains that difference in accounting for municipal governments. He stated that just from what he has seen, things don't necessarily add up or make sense. David stated that there was a serious bookkeeping problem, that the budget were significantly overbudget, and the books had not been reconciled. The auditor explained that there were material weaknesses that had not

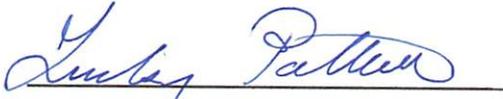
been dealt with that had been stated for several years. David Godwin again explained that there was a significant need for a municipal cpa. David Godwin explained a system of internal control and that there needed to be oversight. David Godwin explained control deficiencies, significant deficiencies. Fran Estes asked "what is Lindsey going to do if you hire the CPA?" that auditor explained that there was a significant amount of work that was on the shoulders of the City secretary/administrator. City administrator explained that several departments were legally not compliant and were in disarray. Marie Banister makes motion to hire Municipal CPA Christopher Turner for \$24K

6. Mayor Pro Tem Marie Banister makes motion to hire David Godwin for fiscal year 2025. Melvin Second the motion. Motion passes 5-0
7. Item Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis advises that in discussion he felt that the retirement TMRS needs to go back to 1-1. That was changed in 2022 to 2-1. He is unsure as to why this change was made but feels that it would be financially responsible to change it back. Clayton Gaddis makes motion to return to 1-1 from selection for TMRS. Marie Banister seconds the motion. Motion passes 4-0
8. **Item 9** – Consider the adoption of the amendment changing the eligibility requirements to serve on the city planning and zoning committee. Clayton explained that the ordinance was not passed correctly, that the ordinance was signed and enforced prior to discussion and vote. Clayton Gaddis explained that the amendment is the "state default". Clayton Gaddis reads the amendment out loud. Amendment 2022-008. Clayton Gaddis makes a motion to adopt the amendment to ordinance 2022-008 that expands eligibility to those with vested interest that also live within 10 miles of the city limits to serve on the committee. Marie Bannister second the motion 4-0 passes.

Fran Estes speaks up and states she "would like to walk into the dollar general and not have those employees saying that we are changing the amendments to allow mobile homes. She shouldn't have to hear that". Jeff McClintock states that everything that is discussed pertaining to the city is discussed at the council meetings and that the council members don't entertain rumors"

Clayton Gaddis discusses that all those on the planning and zoning committee have to reappoint and appoint members for the committee as they have had a vacant seat for a long time. Clayton also states that the planning and zoning has only brought something to the council to vote on maybe one time in the last year. Also, that because of the discrepancies that have been found, everything is being called into question.

9. **Adjournment:** Jeff McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Marie Bannister seconds the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



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Lindsey Patterson – City Administrator



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Clayton Gaddis Mayor Pro Tem