

CITY OF TRINIDAD

Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025

A special session of the governing body of the City of Trinidad was held on the 11th 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 being that she did not 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 did not 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 should not have an outsider making decisions about the city”. She states that she doesn’t know why we would approve anyone that is not 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 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 problems, that the budget was 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. **Item 7.** 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 8.** 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.

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 do not entertain rumors"

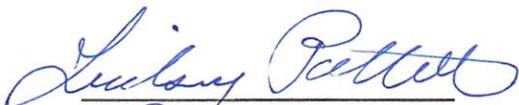
Clayton Gaddis discusses that all those on the planning and zoning committee must reappoint and appoint members for the committee as they have had a vacant seat for a long time. Clayton also states that the planning and zoning has only brought something to the council to vote on maybe one time in the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

Chief Charles Gregory attempts to explain to Sue Butler that not only does a person need to have a "vested interest", such as a business or paying taxes, but they also must be living within 10 miles. 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.

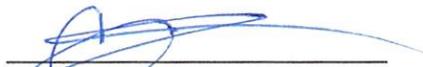
9. **Item 10**- Update on the drainage Discussion occurs between Melvin and the Doc discuss water drainage issues on the alleyway and other issues around the city. The city administrator explains that she will be going to a conference where Melvin was only able to get a survey for the land elevation from Hayter Engineering. Doc again addresses the drainage issues.
10. **Item 11** – Consideration of hiring Doug Swartz for audit of the Trinidad PD evidence and property room. Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis explains that we have been told by state officials that this needs to be done. It is another issue that has been put on the backburner for too long. Fran Estes speaks up and states “the sheriff’s department has always been involved is assisting with that.” Chief Charles Gregory speaks up stating “The DA is over this county. Not the Sheriff’s office. They control what comes in and what goes out in terms of evidence and property. I just spoke with the DA’s office; they highly recommend that we hire an outside company to come in and do this instead the sheriff's office or another police department that could very well be friends with the cops that were employed here previously. Myself, the council and the all-city employees want this done clean without question. We have 43 guns in our property room supposedly. What if we go up there and we only find 6? What does that look like if I’m the one that does the inventory? This has been run by the DA’s office and the Texas Rangers. They both recommend this be done by a third party.” Clayton Gaddis states that the cost is reasonable and a good rate because this agency was used in Caney City.” Marie Banister makes a motion to accept David Swartz to do an audit on Trinidad PD Evidence and Property room. Jeff McClintock seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously 5-0
11. **Item 12 adoption of fiscal budget for 2026** – Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis states that they are going to work with what the budget is supposed to be and be able to get additional information pertaining to what is available with the understanding of what big line items are going to be needed to be paid for and adjusted for. We will have a regular meeting next Tuesday

Council inquiry time. Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis discusses wanting to make Trinidad more developer friendly and wanting to address the building code and permitting issues within the next few months.

12. **Adjournment:** Marie Bannister makes the motion to adjourn. Velma Womack seconds the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Lindsey Patterson – City Administrator/Secretary



Clayton Gaddis – Mayor Pro Tem