

CITY OF TRINIDAD

Minutes

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

A special session of the governing body of the City of Trinidad was held on the 16th 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, Marie Bannister, Melvin Thompson and Velma Womack. Jeff McClintock absent
 3. **Invocation:** Invocation was led by Lindsey Patterson.
 4. **Citizen Comments:**
 - **Roy Stanfield** - Roy Stanfield reasoning for speaking "Concerned Citizen" – Roy Stanfield first spoke about the city vehicle insurance. He asked "is there anyone here that doesn't believe that we have full coverage on all the vehicles?" No one responded. Roy stated, "that's not what I was told". Roy stated that "recently, this last weekend, Matt had a phone call for a sewer line leakage. He and Ms. Patterson had words". Lindsey Patterson, city admin, stated "that would not be correct" Roy went on to state that Matt needed the truck for call outs and when he was on the council there were 2-4 call outs a month. Roy asked if any of our other vehicles taken home. Mayor Pro Tem answered, "as far as I know, no". Roy asked Chief Gregory, "Do you take your vehicle home?" Chief Gregory "yes sir I do". Council Woman Marie Bannister stated, "that is an emergency vehicle". Roy stated that sewer backing up in someone's house was an emergency. There is no reason why the one guy that is doing a good job for the city shouldn't have his perk, his vehicle taken away. It was a perk that was taken away. I can't say enough good about Matt. He is a vital asset to this town. Roy goes on to say that" the auditor was Marx Anderson and Bohl" Roy states their phone number and address. He goes on to stated that Frank Steel said he would come over and explain anything that the council would like." Roy "It's out there in town that there are issues with our accounting. We were told no one would answer the phone." I can't bring this up because I'm on planning and zoning but I'm going to bring it up anyway. Our water is bad. Is there anyone that can say different?" Several hands were raised among the crowd. Roy continued "I'm about to tell you something, I've got pictures of water coming out of the hydrant at the methodist church. It's beyond brown water. I called Jeremy and told him we had a problem, and he came out and flushed. The water the next day was almost as bad as the water the day before"
- Timer went off** - Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis allows Roy Stanfield to continue. Roy "the water just kept on being bad. After so long, I went hey, I'm going to the water plant. I'm going to go down there and see what is going on with the water plant. Again, I've got

pictures. Does anyone know about Chlorine residual?" No one responded. Roy "our chlorine residual is 1.7 and if you asked me when I was on the council, I wouldn't know what that meant". "Yesterday afternoon, our chlorine residual was 1.7. I looked it up and was told it shouldn't be less than 3.5. I got pictures of things going on down at the water plant that I don't like. So I'm telling you that we should have more chlorine in our water. We should be washing our screens regularly during the summer. It's been that way for a long, long time. I understand that, but when I don't see any flushing going on, and our water is still bad, I don't know. I've got pictures of it so nobody will doubt what I am saying"

City Councilman Melvin Thompson asks "Where was the concern when you were on the board and the council and everything down there was broken. Because that's what going on here. We are trying to get through things that haven't been dealt with. This has been going on for years"

Roy "I never said the water was perfect when I was on the city council. We have fought this a long time. Money only goes so far. The mixer on the clarifier was out. There's no reason why our chlorine residual is " Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis, gavel "I'm going to stop everyone so we can move on"

Marie Bannister asks, "in the future shouldn't Jeremy be on here so he can explain all of this?" Mayor Pro Tem Clayton "yes that was an oversight"

Chief of Police report – Chief Gregory reported on the Aug 1 – 31st – 17 citations – 15 warning 72 call out for service – 8 offence reports – 2 incident reports – 3 crashed – no impounded vehicles, no arrests, 5 agency assists with Malakoff and Tool. Issues & Challenges, council requests – Sean Foley is now a reserve. We need body worn and car cameras are worn out and outdated. Watchguard is the oldest of the body cam and car cameras. They were bought out by Motorola and the city can no longer get service. The patrol cars, are worn out, but they have 115K miles on it. We are having maintenance issues with both vehicles. He hopes to increase officer presence in the school and want to get SRO program at school. Matt Miezell is on board with his security budget. The goal is to fill all positions and upgrade fleet, purchase 2 new vehicles. Discussion of Lease program, 2 vehicles for \$900.

Municipal Court Judge Bivens Report- For the month of August we had 16 New cases that were filed. The court does not include warrants. 3 cases dismissed after deferred disposition. 1 after proof of insurance 7 cases satisfied by jail credit. 2 cases waived for indigency. Total amount on indigency 544. Total receipts \$14232. We have not seen a number like that in quite some time. Our court software collections have brought in \$11000. I had the opportunity to meet with the new chief and he understands the court finances. We are going to work well together.

Roy Stanfield asks "off the top of your head, our citations were at one time running a lot more than 16. It's difficult to do what our police chief wants with those numbers.

Wouldn't you agree? The judge responds "this is before he came on board. This is the interim chief. This is not a normal number for a small town. I've seen as high as 200 and as little as 4 in the last while. The cases that are being filed are good cases. These are 18-wheeler running the light. I have no doubt about the chief's work ethics, his integrity. The goals that we have for Trinidad. We are sitting on about \$600K worth of warrants, And they're good warrants. We are going to work on getting an in-house warrant program together. Possibly set up payment plans and community service.

Street Dept Matthew Maddox – Not present

Report from EDC – Lisa Hebrank "we finished the purchase of the land. It took a lot of work. We are in the process of discussing what we are going to do with that land. We have 2 openings on the EDC Board. We interviewed 2 people in the last meeting. We could not make a motion. We will probably make a choice. I did get a call from the realtor and discussed that land that didn't have a clear title. Marrie Bannister asked about property sold to Whistlestop people. Lisa states " that was several years ago and we've learned a lot since then. I believe that he has sold the land to someone else. We can check into that.

Roy Stanfield asked about the land that was going to be a meat market but the guy died of covid had anyone inquired about that land again. Lisa Hebrank answered

City Administrator report: Lindsey Patterson "This afternoon before this meeting, I drove my personal vehicle to Italy Texas to attend a water grant workshop. Different grants and different loans, I feel that we have a good chance. The first thing that was mentioned was CPA's and how small municipalities need to have one because they are different than businesses. The CPA should be taking over next week. We did have an issue with the sewer lines this weekend. Everything was done in text and writing. I wouldn't say that I had words, but the position was made very clear of the repercussions of someone on call not showing up. Mr. Stanfield you are ill informed of the conversations that took place pertaining to the insurance. Roy Stanfield asked "have you spoken with the insurance company?" Lindsey Patterson "yes, I spoke with him again yesterday morning. As did Mr. Maddox's wife. She only spoke with him Monday morning after attempting to get a hold of him all weekend this weekend. So, whatever you were told this weekend was not accurate or factual. Roy Stanfield "so we don't have insurance?" Lindsey Patterson "we absolutely have insurance" Roy Stanfield "Well that's not what I was told." Lindsey Patterson "Mr. Stanfield when we spoke earlier in this room, I thought we had an understanding that we would not be entertaining small town rumors and that we would have the decency to come and have a conversation but here we are. So, I again state that your assessment of this weekend's situation was not accurate. Roy Stanfield "well I think we have a name here that says it is so" Lindsey Patterson "we can agree to disagree" Roy Stanfield "I just can't believe that our vehicles are not covered" Lindsey Patterson "our vehicle are absolutely covered "

Clayton Gaddis "Let me be very clear, our vehicles are covered for work purposes"
Lindsey Patterson "and our police vehicles are equipped with emergency lights and sirens so they can get here in an emergency and if you are concerned, and I can't imagine that there is anyone in this room that hasn't heard we don't have the money for probably 20 years or more. When we spoke earlier, I explained as the city administrator that I could not justify to the Trinidad Tax payers the thousands of dollars of wear and tear being put on a vehicle to Maybank going back and forth every single day. What I can tell you is that we had a city employee that chose not to show up to a health and hazard issue. Roy Stanfield "he did show up". Lindsey Patterson "I was present all weekend. I was here and I was at Ms. Sanders home dealing with that situation. So, I don't know where you got that he showed up, but he most certainly did not show up" Roy Stanfield "he showed up in his personal vehicle". Lindsey Patterson "sewage came 10 feet from entering into our storm drains. Which would have brought 3 agencies to Trinidad bringing fines and citations. You have been told for how many years that we don't have any money? How much does Matt's truck cost? Just the payment? Not the wear and tear on that vehicle. You should know since you were on the council when you passed it" Roy Stanfield "I believe about \$700 to \$800 dollars" Lindsey Patterson "No we are paying \$1600 a month for that truck. Not including the insurance. Do you want to talk about much this building cost Roy? Or how much the concrete cost?" Roy "wait just a minute!" Mayor Pro Tem Clayton Gaddis Gavel to stop and move on.

Planning and Zoning Report – Roy Standfield I want to first thank the planning and zoning for being her tonight. We are all concerned about P&Z. Clay or Ms. Patterson can you tell us what the requirements are for the people that are in the seats now?

Clayton Gaddis "as long as they are already on the committee, I won't require new forms to be filled out. They just need to go through the process that is required by state law" Discussion pertaining to have to go through the reappointment process every 2 years. Roy Stanfield reiterates that the planning and zoning meets the first Tuesday of every month. City Administrator explains that it needs to be posted for at least 72 hours"

Marie Banister motions to accept the interlocal agreement between Trinidad and Henderson county to assist with the November elections . Velma 2nds 4-0 passes.

Discussion of the budget. Clayton Gaddis states that once we have our session at the end of the month, it will be based off last year's budget with added expenditures of the water and police department. Clayton discussed the public hearing before the end of the month.

No council member inquiry

Consent Agenda: Marie Banister makes motion to approve payment of monthly invoices. Approve minutes ,August 19, 2025, August 21, 2025, September 11. Velma Womack 2nd the motion , 4-0 passes

5. **Adjournment:** Marie Bannister makes motion to adjourn. Velma Womack 2nds the motion.
Passes 5-0



Lindsey Patterson -City Administrator/Secretary



Clayton Gaddis – Mayor ProTem