

City of Trinidad
Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2026 6:00 pm

TRINIDAD CITY HALL, 100 PARK STREET

A regular session of the governing body of the City of Trinidad was held on the 8th of January 2026 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 Dennis Haws called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Members present were Marie Bannister, Melvin Thompson, Velma Womack, Leah Melton, Paul Kern.
3. **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Haws.
4. **Citizen Comments** – None

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 this agenda

5. **Discuss and consider action to authorize a professional appraisal of City Hall and adjacent City-owned land for valuation and planning purposes-** Mayor Dennis Haws explains that the reasoning behind this agenda item is based on the lien on the 212 Park St. The goal is to move forward doing something with that property. The 212 Park property is not worth the lien on the property and it has been sitting decaying for 2 years., He explains that the loan should be attached fully to the new city hall. Leah Melton “it’s been an eye sore”. Melvin Thompson states “we can tear it down or sell it”. The old liens were discussed that the old liens were not enforceable. The city administrator explained that some of the land underneath the building is owned by someone else. Marie Bannister motions to authorize the appraisal. Leah Melton 2nds the motion. Paul Kern votes no. Motion passed 4-1
6. **Review and consider the bids for flag poles** – Paul Kern states “I believe that we discussed the community help option previously?” Melvin Thompson “Yes” Dusty Bannister speaks up and states that with the labor cost as well as the difference in cost in the material. Mayor Dennis Haws makes a point to explain that we need to make sure that whomever installs the pole will hold the liability for the flag pole. Council discussed making sure that the flag pole is put in place the correct way. Marie Bannister motions to table the quotes in order to obtain more information. Velma Womack 2nds the motion. 5/0 motion carried
7. **Discuss and consider date and time to remove the remainder of Trinidad property and files out of 212 Park St, Trinidad -** Council discussed having the city administrator coordinate with Matt Meizel the Trinidad ISD superintendent, to request assistance from the football team. There was discussion regarding a potential quorum and being supervised in order to maintain transparency among the community. Leah Melton makes

motion to table time and date of removing the remainder of property out of 212 Park st location. Velma Womack 2nds the motion. 5/0 Motion carried

8. **Discuss and consider, interview and take action of Director of Public Works**

- Alex Estrada
- Anthony Livingston

Melvin Thompson makes motion to go into executive session to interview applicants. Marie Bannister 2nds the motion. 6:30 pm

Return from executive at 7:29

Paul Kern makes statements regarding the work and life experience of the different candidates and both of them are dedicated individuals. That one candidate had a little bit more than the other. The council is doing its best to make good decisions for the future of the city. Marie Bannister makes a motion to hire Anthony Livingston as the Public Works director. Leah Melton 2nds the motion. 5/0 Motion carried.

Council Inquiry Time – Mayor Dennis Haws explains that he believes that there was a misunderstanding regarding the services Safe Built brings. He would like to see that on a future agenda. Melvin Thompson suggests that we get back to the discussion on the alley way beside the Trinidad Café and to address that sooner rather than later as the alleyway has an impact, The council discusses workshops and the purpose of the workshops. Marie Bannister would like to have the sewer rate on the next meaning. Paul Kern speaks on making the public aware of the current data center situation.

CONSENT AGENDA: No minutes to approve

ADJOURNMENT – Councilwoman Leah Melton motions to adjourn meeting. Councilwoman Velma Womack 2nd. 5/0 Motion carried

Mayor: _____
Dennis Haws

City Secretary/Administrator 
Lindsey Patterson

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