

CITY OF TRINIDAD
REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
City Hall 100 Park Street Trinidad Tx 75163

1. **Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dennis Haws at 6:00 pm. Council members present were Marie Bannister, Melvin Thompson, Velma Womack and Leah Melton. A quorum was established.
2. **Invocation:** The invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Haws.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to America & Texas Pledge:** All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.
4. **Oath of Office for Chandra Sutton:** Judge Bivens swore in Chandra Sutton to become a Council Member.
5. **Visitors/Citizens Inquiry:**

Matt Steerman: From Trinidad. Spoke about his being concerned about the brown flaky water he has been receiving at his home, due to the corroding pipes in the city. He believes it is a public health issue and has some ideas he would like to discuss with the council.

Stacy Farmer: Owner of the Art House on hwy 31. in Trinidad. Ms. Farmer has concerns about the agenda and spoke about Mayor Haws being a good mayor and thanked all the council members for their job and recognizing it to be a difficult job with no pay. She was concerned about the mayor and judge being on the agenda and hoped the council would be careful about the decisions that are to be made.

6. **Executive Session: Judge Bivens asked for an open session instead of a closed one.**

Council member Leah Melton stated that this was not personal but was concerned about the judge being put on full time without the council permission and that other

judges doing this job, was only coming in once a month to do the same job. Judge Bivens explained that those judges had full time certified clerks to help with the paperwork and she did not have one. Colby who is the court clerk also does the water department. Judge Bivens also spoke about everyone receiving a raise except her last year. Leah also informed the judge that she did not qualify for TMRS because she had not worked 1000 hours in a year since she had been in Trinidad. Council member Chandra also spoke about that the problem was with TMRS is the hours she did not work and that was the reason she was not put on TMRS from the time she started in 2021, and that what Lindsey Patterson had done was illegal, and she did not follow procedures. The judge asked if she was having to pay for what Lindsey had done. Mayor Haws read a letter from Lisa Hebrinks stating the judge was a good and fair judge.

7. (1) Discuss, consider, and take action on matters discussed in executive session about Judge Bivens:

In open session:

Council member Leah Melton made a motion to table this item.

Council member Chandra Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried

8. (2) Discuss regarding identified concerns involving city personnel, administrative operations, and leadership conduct, including matters related to the Office of Mayor Haws; to include publicly addressing concerns in an open meeting: Mayor Haws read the ordinance to the public

9. (3) Discuss, consider, and take action on Ordinance 04-2026-001, related to the duties of the mayor:

Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to table this item and a second was made by council member Velma Womack. Motion carried.

Council Members Inquiry Time. No comments were made.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister and a second was made by council member Velma Womack to adjourn.

Approved on: _____

Mayor Dennis Haws

City Admin. Cynthia Dosier