

City of Trinidad

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 17, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Trinidad City Hall 100 Park Street Trinidad Tx.

1. **Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor 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 Haws.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge:** Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.
4. **VISITORS /CITIZENS INQUIRY:**

Ron Helms: Independent study. Gave information about the budget not being a new problem. Ron also explained how the agenda needs to be more specific about the details so every citizen fully understands what is on the agenda. Suggested the council take more notice on the posting of the agenda.

Tony Halafax: Informed everyone that May is motorcycle awareness month. Spoke about a student that was killed a week before graduation last year. They started a read, sign and share petition that has been in 18 states promoting in-car navigation for motorcycles and bicycles. Clarks Safety Foundation left several of the posters for the city.

Lindsey Patterson: Had questions directed to council, chief Gregory and Cynthia Dosier and no one responded to her questions.

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Report from police chief: Charles Gregory: Chief Charles Gregory Handed out report (see attachment) informed the council that there is a female officer that he is on the process of checking her background for a reserve officer.

Report from Water Plant: Jeremy Crocker handed out report, (see attachment) also informed that one of the lift stations had only one pump, that has been out for a year, and needs to replace it. There are normally 2 pumps at each lift stations.

Report from Municipal Court: Judge Bivens: Handed out report (see attachment). No discussion.

Report from Street Supervisor: No report.

Report from Accountant: Chris Turner: Chris Turner was not present. Mayor Haws read the financial report.

Report from EDC: Lisa Hebrank: Informed that they were giving a \$1000 donation to the Event Committee as a startup fund. Lisa also spoke about Greg Callow from the VFW wanting to get a Halifax as a memorial for veterans. Greg Callow spoke about his plans and invited the city to use the VFW for a fund raiser for the memorial. Leah asked who was paying for the concrete and Greg informed her that the VFW was paying for it.

Report from The Event Center: Dusty Bannister handed out a 2-month calendar to mayor and council. Talked about the Easter egg hunt coming up, and the farmers market coming up.

Report from the P & Z: Jerry Bannister informed everyone that they were working on ordinances. If they just amended one, it would come before the council for approval. If they wrote a new one it would have to be put in the newspaper and up a city hall then has a public hearing on it before it could be voted on. Jerry also informed us that the building inspector was here to talk about his contract with the city,

ACTION ITEMS: All the items on the Action Agenda are discussed by the council and will be individually enacted upon with a motion:

1. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Tex Gov't Code, to deliberate, appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of employee:** Judge Bivens submitted an open session request.

Ron Helms spoke about how an open session was good for transparency. Council member Marie Bannister explained that the problem was the judge was put full time without the council approval and that she was hired as part time. The judge informed her that since last September when the city suddenly had a full police department, she needed to work more hours to keep up with the tickets she received. The judge also brought up that when Colby has her baby she knows how to take the payments. Jeremy Crocker informed them that if there was a problem he could arrange someone to help with the water bills. Council member Marie informed everyone that she had called all the surrounding cities to find out what they paid and discovered that this city had the highest paying judge. Judge Norris explained that most of the judges had full time court clerks, however, Colby is the court clerk and the water clerk and would be going to school in July.

2. **Convene into open session to take action as appropriate in the Council's direction regarding appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment duties, discipline, or dismissal of employee:** Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to reduce the

judges pay rate to \$400 a month. Council member Leah Melton seconded it. All in favor was Marie Bannister and Leah Melton. All opposed was Melvin Thompson and Velma Womack. The mayor is the tie breaker, Mayor Dennis Haws voted no. Motion did not carry.

3. **Discuss, consider, and take action to designate the Athens Daily Review as the City's Official Newspaper:** Ron Helm spoke about the city did need a newspaper for transparency. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to accept the Athens Daily Review as the City Official Newspaper. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
4. **Discuss, consider, and take action to establish paid holidays for municipal full-time employees: New Years Day, MLK jr. Day. Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day plus the following Friday, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.** Ron Helm inquired about the added holiday and if it was in our budget. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve the paid holidays. Council member Leah Melton seconded the motion. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
5. **Discuss, consider, and take action on Sandra Cerrillo Cleaning Service for the City Hall for \$500 a month:** Ron Helm stated this was a well written item that it had all the information that is required. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve Sandra Cerrillo to clean the city hall for \$500 a month. Council member Velma Womack seconded it. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
6. **Discuss, consider, and take action assigning a supervisor for the street employees: Ken Minche.** Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to table this item. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
7. **Discuss, consider, and take action to approve the City Administrator, Police Chief and Water Department a city card from each perspective account for the purchase necessary to conduct business:** Ron Helm informed us that we should be discussing the amount limit on each card etc. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve the cards for each department. Council member Leah Melton seconded. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
8. **Discuss, consider, and take action approving Micheal Oson as City Inspector:** Ron Helm stated that the item should be more detailed in what kind of inspector. Mike Oson spoke about all that his company will be able to do for the city and that he will come and teach the employees how to do the forms. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to

approve Mike Oson as the City inspector. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

9. Discuss, consider, and take action on the resignation of Jake Jones from the P & Z

Committee as a board member. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to accept Jake Jones resignation from the P & Z. Council member Velma Womack made a second. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

10. Discuss, consider, and take action on resignation of Paul Kerns from the P & Z Committee.

A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to accept the resignation of Paul Kerns off the P & Z. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

11. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve Heath Haymaker to join the P & Z

committee. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve Heath Haymaker on the board of the P & Z. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

12. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve the mayor signing the replat on property on

Tempie Road: Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve the mayor signing the plat. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

13. Discuss, consider, and take action placing cameras for the water plant from Sys-logic

Technology Services. Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve the cameras at the water plant. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

14. Discuss, consider, and take action placing cameras for the community center from Sys-

logic Technology. A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve the cameras for the community center. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

15. Discuss, consider, and take action on approving the rental agreement for the Trinidad

Event Facility: A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve the rental agreement for the Trinidad Event Center upon approval from city attorney. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

16. **Discuss, consider, and take action to approve replacing the lights and locks at the community center.** A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve replacing the lights and locks at the community center. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
17. **Discuss, consider, and take action on providing a key to the city hall to the president of the P and Z Committee so they will have access for meetings:** Ron Helm suggested using a different method than just a key for safety purposes. A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve giving a key to the city hall to the president of the P & Z. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion Carried.
18. **Discuss, consider, and take action on providing a key to the city hall to the president of the EDC Committee so they will have access for meetings.** A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve a key to the city hall being given to the president of the EDC. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion Carried.
19. **Discuss, consider, and take action on a proposal from 3 P's Sanitation:** discussion involved his proposal for the city and realizing getting out of a contract at the last minute with Republic was probably not going to happen. A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to table this item and a second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion Carried
20. **Discuss, consider, and take action on Republic rate increase:** A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve the rate increase of \$.81 from Republic Sanitation. Council member Velma Womack seconded the motion. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
21. **Discuss, consider, and take action on application of new council member appointment.**
Chandra Sutton: Council member Marie Bannister made a motion to approve Chandra Sutton for council member. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
22. **Discuss, consider, and take action on approving council meeting minutes:**

February 12, 2026 council meeting minutes- A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve the minutes from February 12, 2026. A second was made by council member Leah Melton. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

February 20, 2026 council meeting minutes- A motion was made by council member Leah Melton to approve the minutes from February 20, 2026. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

February 27, 2026 council meeting minutes- A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to approve the minutes from February 27, 2026. A second was made by council member Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

Council Members Inquiry: Council members discussed running an ad in the newspaper for the street supervisor and for city admin.

Adjourn- A motion was made by council member Marie Bannister to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Velma Womack. All in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approved on _____

Mayor Dennis Haws

City Admin. Cynthia Dosier