

Notice of City Council Special Session

Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2026, 2:00 PM

100 Park Street, Trinidad, TX, US

1. Call to Order & Establish Quorum

The mayor called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was established.

2. Invocation

The invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Haws.

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

The Pledge Allegiance and Texas Pledge was recited.

4. Visitors/Citizens Inquiry

One individual signed up.

Lindsey Patterson - She addressed the council regarding the proposed appointments and questioned the legal authority supporting a 30 - day appointment process. She stated that in the absence of clearly identified legal authority proceeding with the appointments could create uncertainty and potential litigation risk for the individuals being asked to accept those positions. She encouraged both the proposed municipal judge and court clerk to request the supporting ordinance statute or written legal opinion before accepting appointment. She further stated that the City of Trinidad has experienced ongoing controversy related to appointments, personal decisions, litigation, governance, and emphasized that the appropriate response was not to proceed more quickly, but to proceed lawfully. She urged the council to place any supporting legal authority on public record before voting, stating that doing would reflect good governance and transparency rather than obstruction. She concluded by stating that the council has a responsibility to act within the authority provided by law and urged the council to demonstrate the legal basis for the appointments before taking action.

Convene into Executive Session

At 2:07 PM Mayor Haws Convene into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate, the appointment, employment, duties, responsibilities, compensation, and proposed employment agreements of (a) Tanya Estes-Norris for the position of Interim Municipal Judge; and (b) Stacy Hamaker for the position of Interim Municipal Court Clerk. Deliberate ratification of the appointment of Michelle Webb as Interim City Administrator.

5. Convene into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate, the appointment, employment, duties, responsibilities, compensation, and proposed employment agreements of (a) Tanya Estes-Norris

for the position of Interim Municipal Judge; and (b) Stacy Hamaker for the position of Interim Municipal Court Clerk.

6. Deliberate ratification of the appointment of Michelle Webb as Interim City Administrator.

Action Items

7. Reconvene into Open Session and take any action necessary regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.

The Council reconvened into open session at 2:42 PM. The Mayor stated that no decisions were made during executive session.

8. Discuss, consider, and take action on appointing Tanya Estes-Norris as Interim Municipal Judge for a thirty (30) day interim appointment; consider and potentially take action on the Interim Municipal Court Stabilization and Improvement Plan; consider and take action on the Interim Municipal Judge Agreement; establish compensation, duties, authority, reporting requirements, and performance expectations; and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the appointment.

The Council approved the appointment of Tanya Estes-Norris as Interim Municipal Judge for a 30-day term. The terms of the agreement include compensation of \$1,000 per month on a contract basis, with no set hours, as the position is structured under a 299 appointment. Key operational provisions included the separation of court functions from the city secretary's office, the provision of an iPad to allow the public to submit pleas and pay fines, and a dedicated cell phone for all court-related communications to reduce burden on the front office.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 8 was made by Council Member Steven and seconded by Council Member Marie. The motion carried.

9. Discuss, consider, and take action on appointing Stacy Hamaker as the Interim Municipal Court Clerk; consider and potentially take action on the Interim Municipal Court Clerk Agreement; establish compensation, duties, authority, reporting requirement and responsibilities necessary to assist in the operation and stabilization of the Trinidad Municipal Court; and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the appointment.

The Council approved the appointment of Stacy Hamaker as Interim Municipal Court Clerk. Her compensation was established at \$21.00 per hour with no set time limit on the engagement. It was noted that Ms. Hamaker holds a Texas Level 1 certified municipal court clerk certification and is preparing for Level 2 certification.

Motion to appoint Stacy Hamaker as Interim Municipal Court Clerk was made by Council Member Marie and seconded by Council Member Chandra. The motion carried.

10. Discuss, consider, and take action on the ratification of the appointment of Michelle Webb as City Administrator.

The Mayor advised the Council that he had appointed Michelle Webb as Interim City Administrator the previous Saturday pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §22.001(e), which authorizes the mayor to appoint a person to fill a vacancy in any municipal office, subject to confirmation by the governing body. The Council confirmed the appointment.

Motion to confirm the appointment of Michelle Webb as Interim City Administrator was made by Council Member Marie and seconded by Council Member Velma. The motion carried.

11. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Steven and seconded by Council Member Velma. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM.