

JANUARY 3, 2012

CITY OF TRINIDAD
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Trinidad, Colorado, was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall.

There were present:	Mayor	Garduno, presiding
	Councilmembers	Aragon, Pando, Rino, Shew, Velasquez
Also present:	City Manager	Gil de Rubio
	City Attorney	Beatty
	Asst. City Clerk	Valencich
Absent:	Councilmember	Toupal

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES. A motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 20, 2011 was made by Councilmember Shew and seconded by Councilmember Velasquez. The motion carried with all Council members voting aye, excepting Councilmember Aragon who abstained.

BILLS. A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilmember Rino. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shew. Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL, December 24, 2011 through January 6, 2012. A motion to approve the payroll was made by Councilmember Rino and seconded by Councilmember Velasquez. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Gil de Rubio said it is a special night in that the City is swearing in new members of City Council and we are bidding fond farewell to some City Council members as well as a Mayor who has been very dedicated toward the efforts of the City. He presented plaques to them in appreciation for their service to the City of Trinidad.

Mayor Garduno thanked the voters who voted for her to serve as Mayor two years ago and those who voted for her to serve on Council the previous six years. She said she felt it was a privilege and it has been a real honor to be able to serve the community. She continued that she has enjoyed serving the entire eight years; she had a very good Council to work with and believes the Council members have always been dedicated to the community and have done what's best for the welfare of the community. She congratulated the new Council members and Mayor and said she knows they will do a wonderful job working together as a team as they have done, will be successful and will take the City forward in the direction that's best for the City. She reiterated her appreciation and that it has been a real honor and privilege.

Councilmember Aragon expressed her thanks for the support she has had and said she's enjoyed being on Council. She thanked City Attorney Beatty and City Manager Gil de Rubio for their hard work. She concluded that she's really looking forward to the new Council stepping up to the plate.

Mayor Garduno echoed Councilmember Aragon's appreciation to City Attorney Beatty and City Manager Gil de Rubio, adding that it has been great working with them. City Manager Gil de Rubio said it was his pleasure to have worked with them as well.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Councilmember Shew and seconded by Councilmember Velasquez. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote of Council.

ATTEST:


DONA VALENCICH, Asst. City Clerk


JENNIE GARDUNO, Mayor

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Trinidad, Colorado, was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The Honorable Leslie J. Gerbracht, Third Judicial District Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to John Rino as Mayor, Bernadette Baca Gonzalez, Carol Bolton and Joe Bonato as Council Members.

There were present:	Mayor	Rino, presiding
	Councilmembers	Baca Gonzalez, Bolton, Bonato, Pando, Shew, Velasquez
Also present:	City Manager	Gil de Rubio
	City Attorney	Beatty
	Asst. City Clerk	Valencich

Mayor Rino said he is humbled by the opportunity to be Mayor. He thanked the citizens of Trinidad for placing their confidence in him to lead the City as their Mayor for the next two years. In response to their support he said he wanted to share his vision and goals for those two years. He said his vision for the ensuing years is for all citizens to join the elected officials in making our quality of life better today than it was before. Mayor Rino said they can meet this vision by joining with the County, State, Federal government, local organizations, private industry and businesses to identify the common goals and to seek the means to meet these goals. He continued that his vision indicates that we have a City Council and administration that works in harmony for the common good. He promised to work diligently to make that happen, explaining that we cannot have a better City or a better City government unless we work together to improve our present circumstances and work especially hard to avoid differences that some people attempt to cultivate. Mayor Rino said they need to approach this in an appropriate way and in a positive manner. He itemized his specific goals – to repair North Lake dam to ensure that the City's present water sources are reliable and safe; resolve all issues with ARPA (Arkansas River Power Authority), to contract with a new provider that ensures fair cost and electricity to our citizens and business owners; revitalize our beautiful downtown to attract visitors and house businesses that invites both locals and tourists to stop in Trinidad and shop; facilitate the remodeling of our vacant buildings and fill them with people and new businesses; ensure a business-friendly attitude that will attract new industry and support existing businesses, each of which will provide jobs and give our young people an opportunity to remain in Trinidad; capitalize on our existing resources by teaming with County and community organizations to use our history, recreational assets, arts, and natural surroundings to attract tourists and improve our quality of life. He continued that while top quality health care and top quality educational institutions are not a City responsibility, they are vital to our community and its citizens. Mayor Rino vowed to support existing health care organizations and ensure the continuation of good health care services for all of the citizens and improve that quality. He said he would also lend support to local schools and Trinidad State Junior College as they prepare students to become responsible and productive citizens. He said he hopes to improve the quality of Trinidad's recreational assets as a means of attracting new residents and providing economic development. Mayor Rino said his strategy is simple – City government needs to listen to the citizens and engage them in the governing process. He said he intends to ask City Council to create a blue ribbon panel to advise Council how best to move forward and improve the quality of their work. He said he will ask each Councilmember to appoint two people to the panel – one with a business background and one resident. He said he would then appoint three members to ensure an uneven number of members on the panel and will appoint a chairperson to convene the panel and serve as a primary link to City Council. Mayor Rino said he will ask Council to provide resources, including a meeting room and a recording secretary. The panel will identify assets, limitations and problems within the City. They will set goals for achieving changes, develop a plan for achieving goals and identify the resources needed to meet these goals. The panel will meet with any citizen who wants to contribute to the process by bringing fresh and innovative ideas to the City. Finally, he said to move Trinidad forward the panel will make finding and recommendations to City Council which he hoped would serve as a basis for the City's plan to move forward. In conclusion, Mayor Rino again thanked the public for their confidence and for allowing him the opportunity to serve. He added that Trinidad is a great city and he promised to work hard to justify the community's support and make Trinidad a better city.

APPOINTMENTS. Appointment of Municipal Judge. Councilmember Shew moved to re-appoint John Garcia as Municipal Judge. The nomination was seconded by Councilmember Pando and carried unanimously upon roll call vote.

Administration of Oath of Office. The Honorable Leslie J. Gerbracht, Third Judicial District Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to John Garcia as Municipal Judge.

Appointment to South Central Council of Governments Board (member of Council, coincident with term). Councilmember Velasquez moved for the appointment of Mayor Rino to the Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bolton. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote of Council.

Appointment to the Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) Board of Directors. A motion to re-appoint Louis Fineberg was made by Councilmember Shew. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Baca Gonzalez and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Council Member to serve as Library Advisory Board liaison. Councilmember Shew moved to appoint Councilmember Baca Gonzalez as the liaison. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Velasquez and carried unanimously upon roll call vote.

PETITIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS, ORAL OR WRITTEN. Steve Bolton addressed Council. He said he owns a small business in town and his wife just assumed a council seat. He said he felt it was unusual to be the first person to speak to the new council that his wife is on. Mr. Bolton raised concerns about a conversation held at a Council meeting on December 20, 2011. He pointed to the conversation and recommended votes had been led by Mayor Rino on some very, very important issues to the people of Trinidad. He said the issues were brought up at the last moment at the last meeting so

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the public didn't have time to know what Council was going to talk about or what they were going to bring up. He said they would like to have those issues brought back up before this Council so the public can bring their ideas or suggestions. The issues have to do with the Power & Light Superintendent position and the LED lighting. Mr. Bolton told Mayor Rino that he keeps saying that he wants to hear from the public and their opinions, so he said he wondered if they can be brought back up so the public can express their opinions. Mr. Bolton asked Councilmember Velasquez if she thought the people in this town should have been involved in those two issues. Councilmember Velasquez said she thinks they should have been. Mr. Bolton asked Councilmember Bonato if he too would like more input from the citizens on those issues. Councilmember Bonato said if it is a concern of the public, Council should bring it back to the table and work through them. He said he they need more citizen input. Mr. Bolton asked why then these issues would be raised at the last moment without notification to the public. It was brought up under the 'second reading of an ordinance appropriating certain sums of money out of the revenues of the City of Trinidad, Colorado, to defray and meet the liabilities of the City of Trinidad for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012...' He asked where in that topic the hiring of a new Power & Light Superintendent is or the taking away of a lighting program is that everybody in this town is for, because he doesn't understand. He continued that Mayor Rino brought up a concern several months ago about lack of a line item in the budget for the flag project and said Mayor Rino had no idea it was in there except that he had voted for it. He suggested Council put line items in the agendas that the people in this town can understand so they can come and argue them with Council rather than them forming some board to advise Council. Mr. Bolton said the citizens of this town will help advise them – they don't need to stack the deck any further. Mayor Rino acknowledged that was his opinion and he has his own. He opined that he felt Council did the right thing and that it was an opportunity during second reading of the ordinance to approve the budget. He said he had checked with City Attorney Beatty to ascertain if they could make changes at that time. He pointed out that his biggest concern was the capital improvement money which Mr. Bolton didn't mention at all. He asked him if he knew what was in it. Mr. Bolton responded that he wanted to go back to what he was talking about - \$2 million over the next 15 years for a Power & Light Superintendent that they want to hire. Mr. Bolton asked what he thought this town could do with \$2 million. Mayor Rino asked if he was sure that he was the one who brought that up. Mr. Bolton read "regarding the issues he raised, Councilmember Pando said that if they need to do this as a motion and vote he was perfectly willing to do that that way"; "he added that he didn't know how Councilmember Rino wanted to handle the issues he raised". He said that Councilmember Rino had pretty much taken over that meeting and added that he was surprised he wasn't sworn in on the 20th. Mr. Bolton asked Mayor Rino what he was afraid of. Mayor Rino said he wasn't afraid of anything. Mr. Bolton said he was afraid of the citizens of this community coming forward and giving Council their ideas and suggestions on these items. He said he brought this in through the back door, under the table at the last minute. He suggested it be brought back up so the citizens can come in and give their suggestions. Mayor Rino told Mr. Bolton that if he wants to make suggestions to make them. Councilmember Baca Gonzalez said that under the Home Rule Charter if two or more Councilmembers desire they could schedule a special meeting at which designated topics could be discussed and if there is interest by Council at this time, she said she would be amenable to discuss some of the issues Mr. Bolton raised. Councilmember Pando said the LED lighting is not completely dead. It was taken out of this year's budget, but we are not saying we don't want it – just not this year. He said it can be included next year or the year thereafter. He reiterated that it is not completely dead and added that the City has time before the Federal regulations kick in. It just wasn't going to happen this year, that's all. Mayor Rino said the City has until 2014 to do it. Mr. Bolton said the closer the City gets to that point the less leverage the City will have to make deals with the distributors. If they bring up the night before that we have to have this lighting in, how much leverage do you think we are going to have on the price? The sooner we do this the better deal we are going to cut. Mayor Rino said he didn't know. Mr. Bolton rebutted that is his point. Mayor Rino said Mr. Bolton doesn't know what the savings would be either and so it is a mute point. Councilmember Bolton asked if they can take action on Councilmember Baca Gonzalez's suggestion. Councilmember Baca Gonzalez said she didn't think they could since it wasn't properly noticed. It was simply a suggestion. She said a communication could be directed to the City with the interest of two Council members. She continued that in the interest of ensuring that the citizens feel they have had adequate input, she suggested Council consider a special meeting to discuss that issue. Mayor Rino suggested alternatively that it be on the next regular meeting. Councilmember Baca Gonzalez thanked Mayor Rino and said she thought that would be very productive.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER. 2012 Budget. City Manager Gil de Rubio distributed the 2012 budget to City Council.

Retreat. City Manager Gil de Rubio reminded Council of the retreat scheduled for January 19, 2012. He said in preparation he compiled a 'City Manager to-do list' for 2012 containing ten or eleven disciplines and distributed a copy of the list to Council. City Manager Gil de Rubio pointed out that there is a goal under each discipline and an objective as to how to achieve that goal also. He commended Mayor Rino, noting that some of the things he mentioned are in the list. He said he's looking forward to striving to work together to meet a lot of goals and objectives in 2012. He concluded that it is a well-laid out plan and a lot of work.

Budget. City Manager Gil de Rubio announced for the public's information that there will be copies of the budget available on Friday at City Hall for viewing. He said they can be sent out electronically also.

Retreat. City Manager Gil de Rubio reviewed the 'City Manager to-do list' he prepared and distributed and said what he thought to be in the foremost horizon for Council and the City Manager is regarding budget and finances. He said the goal is to substantiate the General Fund through a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan, the annexation of commercial property and making use of other legitimate sources of revenue. Under that he listed nine objectives of administration to achieve the goal noting that the order doesn't signify priority or importance. He named those objectives as 1) have the voters of Trinidad ratify or reconfirm an updated Capital Improvement Plan that includes equipment and infrastructure projects; 2) annex Wendy's, the Shell Station and Tequila's; 3) landfill scale implementation, which will involve an ordinance; 4) capitalize on available grants; 5) lease the operation of the clubhouse to a reputable establishment; 6) if feasible, outsource city services for a marketable fee to other governmental entities, noting that the City has been approached to enlist some services; 7) create a City-wide 501(c) 3 for departmental fund raising; 8) establish a book store for selling used books donated to the library; 9) lease the Central Park field to the Trinidad Triggers. He continued that the goal with Human Resources is to continue to build a human resource department that is fully comprehensive in a worker-friendly format. Objectives to attain the goal include 1) continue performance evaluations; 2) complete an updated Personnel Policy; 3) supervisor and leadership training for middle management/department heads; 4) continue and embellish existing safety

training, using the Safety Committee to format technical guidance; 5) develop job grades and salary ranges for all full-time and part-time positions in the City; 6) continue to develop wellness programs for the entire staff and when feasible immediate family members; 7) provide topical field training and certification programs for line staff; 8) encourage the Insurance Committee to keep a vigil on existing health insurance providers and options available for the City; 9) work with CIRSA on Workmen's Compensation issues including educating staff on the ramifications of a high Workmen Comp grade; 10) administer a working environment that emphasizes cooperation and empowers the entire staff to carry out their responsibilities that is encouraging, respectful and free from political discord. The goal for Communications / IT is to establish a city government that is open, user friendly, progressive and is precisely situated to undertake impending communication challenges. Objectives to meet that goal are 1) continue an open door policy for all city departments; 2) establish various methods of bringing the significance of city government to the people of Trinidad; 3) a complete overhaul of the city web site including the establishment of social networking; 4) develop a replacement plan for IT assets and radio equipment; 5) work with broadband providers to bring Trinidad to the forefront of IT technology; 6) plan and start to implement a city wide surveillance system; 7) all city departments have internet availability; 8) develop a plan for unit cameras and computers for police patrol units; 9) establish electronic bill paying for city utilities; 10) create a formidable city wide IT Department. Continuing, City Manager Gil de Rubio said with respect to utilities the goal he has identified is to ensure the City of Trinidad's utility systems are credible, resourceful, and dependable with competitive and marketable rates. The objectives identified to achieve the goal include 1) continue to monitor Trinidad's relationship with ARPA especially regarding the Lamar Repowering Project; 2) strive for a long-term affordable electric power agreement; 3) develop hydro and solar power initiatives; 4) develop an upgrade time line for all of the distribution systems within the existing utilities throughout the city; 5) repairs to North Lake Dam; 6) establish a city-wide meter replacement system for water and gas utilities; 7) electronic bill paying for all utilities; 8) augment existing water rights. The goal for city-wide infrastructure is to enhance the development and the proper maintenance of city-owned property, roadway, parks and infrastructure. Objectives: 1) establish a system and method of continual maintenance for city-owned buildings; 2) begin and complete the 56 Flag Memorial Project; 3) rebuild the bandstand at Kit Carson Park; 4) rebuild the grandstand at Central Park; 5) complete the renovation of the clubhouse; 6) begin a city-wide tree mitigation project; 7) address all issues outlined in the Engle Martin Report regarding earthquake damage to city-owned structures; 8) develop a Capital Improvement Plan with a timeline outlining the resurfacing of all city-owned streets, storm drains, sidewalks and curbing; 9) provide adequate and safe accommodations for all city employees; 10) continue the enhancement and maintenance of our city-owned parks and alleyways; 11) establish a valid use for the Water Works building; 12) explore the feasibility of a Biomass Facility in Trinidad; 13) create and implement an energy efficiency program for city departments and buildings; 14) start a city run and financed recycling program; 15) address needed capital improvements at the Welcome Center and the Community Center. The goal for public safety, he said, is to enhance and provide a system of public safety that is resourceful, affordable and proactive to the needs of the community. The objectives to accomplish this goal are 1) continue the patrol car lease program; 2) work towards moving the Police Department to the Trinidad Power and Light Company building; 3) update SWAT training using certified outside sources; 4) a more visible downtown presence using bicycle and foot patrols; 5) move forward on the E-911 initiative; 6) implement GIS power mapping; 7) provide supervisory training for middle management at the Fire Department; 8) systematically rotate fire fighters between the various middle managers and the two fire stations, which he said is a project near and dear to the Fire Chief's heart. Planning and Code Enforcement's goal is to move the City of Trinidad's Planning Department into a more formidable position providing the means to meet a vision. The objectives are five-fold: (1) Plan Development and Implementation by a) City-Wide Business and Marketing Plan; b) Wayfinding Signage Plan Implementation; c) Comprehensive Master Plan Revision; d) Downtown Assessment (Downtown Colorado, Inc.); e) work with property owners regarding major building issues; f) establish Trinidad as a regional center for art tourism; (2) Ordinances which staff would like to work on, include a) junk vehicles; b) wildlife-proof refuse containers; c) landfill scale ordinance; d) re-establish the Urban Renewal Authority; (3) Projects, including a) Elm Street revitalization; b) Opera House; c) Schneider Brewery Complex adaptive re-use project; d) Multi-modal building; e) investigate the feasibility of a Bio-Mass plant; (4) Art District Development, including a) art on the streets program; b) artist relocation program; c) creative districts designation; d) encourage and assist local theater productions; (5) Grants, include a) CDOT Historic District "TE Grant" (Administration); b) Colorado Welcome Center "NSBP Grant" (submitted); c) Trails Grant; d) Old Sopris Trail "State Trails Program Grant" (submitted); GOCO Grant; e) Preservation grants. City Manager Gil de Rubio identified a goal for the library to establish the Trinidad public library as the premier regional collection for print, audio, visual resources and professional services. Objectives are to 1) provide the necessary training to staff and management to meet the expectancies of services and professional knowledge; 2) continue providing computer training and skills at the Main Street computer center; 3) become the foremost source for used books in the Trinidad area; 4) establish the Trinidad library as the epicenter for historical research in Southern Colorado; 5) move beyond the physical walls of the library by providing material accessible by electronic means, and by affording the assistance in navigating and analyzing tremendous amounts of information with a variety of digital tools. The Welcome Center goal is to establish it as a gateway to Trinidad. Objectives include 1) provide necessary repairs to the Welcome Center; 2) encourage the Director to have an active presence in tourism and economic development; 3) provide the necessary resources to attract and recruit volunteers; 4) work with other state centers and state agencies to encourage a collaborative effort in networking ideas and concepts. The goal for recreation is to enhance the prevailing recreational services to a higher level of accessibility through objectives which include 1) develop a plan to acquire additional recreation fields; 2) address the capital needs at the Community Center; 3) further the professional development for coaches and referees; 4) train staff on how to successfully interact with parents; 5) develop a concert series for the refurbished bandstand at Kit Carson Park; 6) work with the Chamber to establish a July 4th celebration; 7) work in kind with the Trinidad Triggers. The goal for regional leadership includes establishing Trinidad as the political and economic leader in Southern Colorado. Objective to attain that goal - 1) continue the ongoing professional relationship between the County, the School District, and Trinidad State Junior College; 2) market the City of Trinidad as an open, progressive community sensitive to the needs of its constituents; 3) create partnerships with all the stakeholders of the community; 4) continue to network with erstwhile political officials and governmental agencies; 5) work closely with support agencies such as the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities, Colorado City County Managers Association, National League of Cities, American Public Power Association. City Manager Gil de Rubio told Council they can discuss it at their strategic meeting. He said he hopes it brings food for thought and direction from the City Council.

REPORT BY CITY ATTORNEY. Welcome. City Attorney Beatty welcomed newly seated Council members and said he was grateful for their willingness to serve the community.

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2011 Litigation Report. City Attorney Beatty distributed the 2011 litigation report. He said it summarizes pending litigation. He pointed out that many if not most of his communications with Council are confidential.

Orientation. City Attorney Beatty advised Council that Colorado Municipal League, which is a phenomenal resource to the City, will provide an orientation session on Friday, February 3rd at the Colorado Municipal League offices in Denver. It is entitled Effective Governance Resources/Skills for Elected Officials. He wanted Council to be aware of the educational opportunity and reminded that the City would coordinate accommodations. Mayor Rino asked if depositions are still scheduled for January 16th. City Attorney Beatty said they haven't received confirmation or notice of depositions yet. He said he would contact Council members once they are received. Councilmember Baca Gonzalez expressed her interest in attending the CML session on February 3rd. City Manager Gil de Rubio reminded Council that CML Executive Director Sam Mamet will be at the work session on January 24th for a refresher course. Councilmembers Pando and Bolton also expressed their interest in attending the February 3rd training in Denver.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS. Designation of public places for posting of notice of meetings. Councilmember Bonato made a motion to designate City Hall and the Carnegie Public Library as the posting locations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shew and carried unanimously upon roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Councilmember Bonato and seconded by Councilmember Baca Gonzalez. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote of Council.

ATTEST:

JOHN RINO, Mayor

DONA VALENCICH, Asst. City Clerk